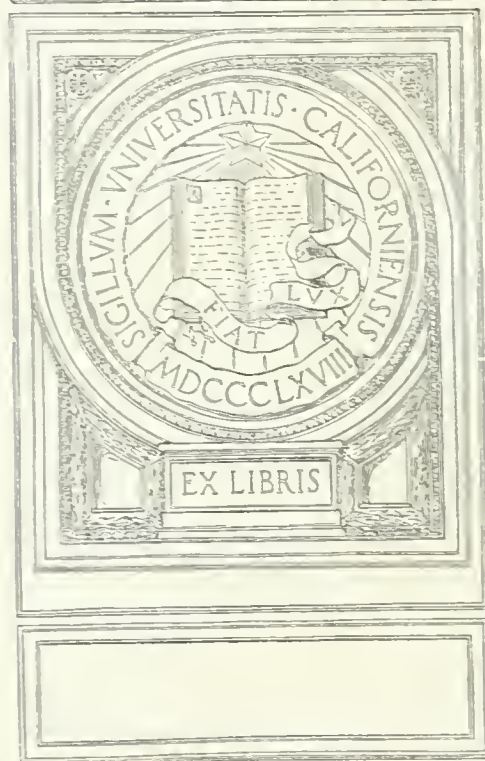


UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AT LOS ANGELES



EAST INDIA.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 17 July 1849;—for,

COPIES “of any DESPATCHES from the GOVERNOR-GENERAL of *India* in Council to the COURT of DIRECTORS of the East India Company, reporting the Circumstances attending the Succession, by Adoption, of any Sovereign Princes in *India* in Alliance with the British Government, from the Year 1820 downwards: Also, COPIES of any DESPATCHES referring to the States of *Colaba* and *Mandavee*, in which the Sanction of the British Government to Adoptions by the Chiefs of those States was refused.”

East India House, }
1 February 1850. }

JAMES C. MELVILL.

(*Sir Edward Colebrooke.*)

Great Britain. Parliament.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
15 February 1850.

L I S T.

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East India House, }
1 February 1850. }

T. L. Peacock,
Examiner of India Correspondence.

COPIES of any DESPATCHES from the GOVERNOR-GENERAL of *India* in Council to the COURT of DIRECTORS of the East India Company, reporting the Circumstances attending the Succession, by Adoption, of any Sovereign Princes in *India* in Alliance with the British Government, from the Year 1820 downwards: also, COPIES of any DESPATCHES referring to the States of *Colaba* and *Mandavee*, in which the Sanction of the British Government to Adoptions by the Chiefs of those States was refused.

Gwalior Succession, 1826, 1827.

Gwalior Succession,
1826, 1827.

EXTRACT Political Letter from Bengal; dated 18 March 1826.

Para. 16. THE despatches from the Resident at Gwalior, of the dates noted in the margin, relate to the important question of the succession to that government, in the event of the demise of the Maharaja, who is believed to be in a very precarious state of health.

2d, 6th, 9th and 20th
of January.

18. In our instructions to Major Stewart, we expressed our regret that Scindia had neither taken any measures for the adoption of an heir, nor seemed disposed to declare his wishes regarding his successor. We prescribed, as the first step to be taken by the Resident, his endeavouring to persuade the Maharaja either to adopt a son himself, or to give the requisite permission for making such an adoption upon his death, and generally to declare formally his wishes regarding the arrangements to be framed for the administration of his country after his demise. We stated to Major Stewart that we should be fully prepared to recognize an adoption so made, and we authorized him to give such assurances to Scindia on that head as might induce him to follow our counsel, explaining to the Maharaja that nothing could be farther from our wish and intention than to exercise any intervention, now or hereafter, in the internal administration of his country. We disclaimed all pretension to any right to control and regulate the succession to the throne of Gwalior, our sole motive of offering advice being the interest we necessarily take in the maintenance of the general tranquillity.

20. It was satisfactory to us to learn from the Resident that he anticipated a quiet succession as above adverted to. * * * We distinctly apprised the Resident at the same time, that we entertained no views of bringing the Maharaja's dominions under our more immediate protection, or acquiring a title to control the internal concerns of the ruler who might succeed him. * * * We added some observations relative to the question of adoption, to which it is unnecessary to advert in detail in this place.

EXTRACT Political Letter from Bengal; dated 28 November 1826.

4. THE despatches from the Acting Resident at Gwalior, and the instructions from the Governor-general in reply, of the annexed dates, exhibit a connected view of the state of affairs at that court, and the course to be adopted by the British Government, on the demise of the Maharaja Dowlut Row Scindia; an event which, from the tenor of Major Fielding's recent reports, cannot in all probability be far distant.

List, Nos. 40 to 45.

2 PAPERS RESPECTING THE SUCCESSION, BY ADOPTION,

Gwalior Succession,
1826, 1827.

To *Joseph Dart*, Esq., Secretary to the Honourable the Court of Directors.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Vice President in Council to transmit to you, for the information of the Honourable the Court of Directors, the enclosed copy of a despatch received this morning by express, from the Resident at the court of Gwalior, notifying the melancholy event of the demise of the Maharaja Dowlut Rao Sindiah on the 21st instant.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Geo. Swinton*,
Secretary to Government.

Fort William, 31 March 1827.

To *Joseph Dart*, Esq., Secretary to the Honourable the Secret Committee.

Sir,

I HAVE now the honour to transmit to you, for the purpose of being laid before the honourable the Secret Committee, the accompanying copies of despatches from the Resident at Gwalior, dated the 20th and 22d ultimo; the first written previous to the demise of the Maharaja, and the last subsequent to that event, and containing much important matter connected with the subject of the succession.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Geo. Swinton*,
Secretary to Government.

Fort William, 5 April 1827.

To *Joseph Dart*, Esq., Secretary to the Honourable the Secret Committee.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Right honourable the Vice President in Council to transmit to you, for the information of the honourable the Secret Committee, copies of further despatches from the Resident in Gwalior, and copies of the instructions, dated 29th March and 9th instant, which have been issued to Major Stewart by the Deputy Secretary, under the orders of the Right honourable the Governor-general.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Geo. Swinton*,
Secretary to Government.

Fort William, 27 April 1827.

To *Joseph Dart*, Esq., Secretary to the Honourable the Secret Committee.

Sir,

IN continuation of the series of despatches from the Resident at Gwalior, forwarded with my letter to your address of the 27th April last, I have the honour, by direction of the Right honourable the Vice President in Council, to transmit to you, for the information of the honourable the Secret Committee, the accompanying copies of despatches from Major Stewart, relating to the selection of a successor to the late Maharaja Dowlut Rao Scindiah, and his elevation to the musnud by the title of Maharaja Alijah Junkojee Rao Scindia Behader.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Geo. Swinton*,
Secretary to Government.

Fort William, 5 July 1827.

EXTRACT Secret Letter from the Governor-General; dated 18 May 1827.

THE death of the Maharaja Dowlut Rao Scindia, and the posture of affairs which arose out of that melancholy event, have been duly reported to your honourable Committee.

I beg to offer my congratulations on the tranquil and favourable settlement of affairs which has taken place at Gwalior subsequent to the Maharaja's demise; an event which it was not unreasonable to anticipate might have kindled the flame of civil war, and seriously disturbed the tranquillity of Central India.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations; 27 January 1826.

(No. 42.)

EXTRACT Letter from Resident at Gwalior to *G. Swinton*, Esq.; dated 3 January 1826.

IT is with much regret that I have to acquaint you, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council, that the health of the Maharaja Dowlut Row Scindiah appears to be very seriously, if not dangerously, deranged. For the last (two) months I was aware that his Highness had been under the medical treatment of his native physicians, and when I had occasion to visit him on the 23d ultimo, he was so unwell as to be obliged to quit the durbar just as I entered. On his return, I had some conversation with him regarding his health, and I advised him to consult Mr. Surgeon Panton on the subject. His Highness said he had been for some time thinking of doing so; but it was not until the evening of the 1st instant that he sent Atmaram Pundit, to request Mr. Panton's attendance the next day. The Maharaja probably, from the circumstance of his being more in the habit of personal intercourse with me than with any other European, also requested that I would be present at the interview.

2. I accordingly visited his Highness yesterday, accompanied by Mr. Panton, and was much shocked to find that he was affected with disorders of a far more dangerous nature than I had in the least suspected.

3. It is obvious that with such diseases of old standing the recovery of the Maharaja, even under the most favourable circumstances, is exceedingly precarious. Were he, however, to submit implicitly to the treatment which Mr. Panton may prescribe, I should entertain great hopes of his recovery, but surrounded as he is by prejudiced individuals, who feel a personal interest in keeping the Maharaja under their own management, and unaccustomed as his Highness himself is to European medical treatment, I do not expect that he will give it a fair trial, or indeed that he will give it a trial at all, and I confess, therefore, that I fear a fatal result.

4. After ascertaining the state in which the Mahajara was, although I offered him such consolation as the case admitted of, and held out hopes of his recovery, yet with reference to the uncertainty in regard to the Maharaja's successor, I thought it right to hint to him, as delicately as I could, the propriety of being prepared for a different result. His Highness spoke with apparent tranquillity of that event, but made no allusion whatever to a successor.

(No. 44.)

EXTRACT Letter from Resident at Gwalior to *G. Swinton*, Esq.; dated 5 January 1826.

1. I HAVE the honour to inform you, that the health of the Maharaja Dowlut Row Scindiah continues nearly in the same state as it was when I addressed you on the 3d instant; symptoms were yesterday rather more unfavourable, but to-day I understand that he is not worse than he was when I saw him.

4 PAPERS RESPECTING THE SUCCESSION, BY ADOPTION.

Gwalior Succession,
1826, 1827.

(No. 45.)

EXTRACT Letter from Resident at Gwalior to *G. Swinton, Esq.*: dated
9 January 1826.

1. SINCE I had the honour to address you on the 5th instant, I regret to say that no improvement has taken place in the health of the Maharaja Dowlut Row Scindia, and much anxiety and alarm continues to prevail in his Highness's family, manifested by a variety of superstitious observances, and extensive acts of charity.

2. The Minister, Gokul Parick, reached this on the 7th instant, from Muttra.

3. Contemplating the chance of a fatal termination of the Maharaja's disorder, it seems proper that I should state what appears to me likely to be the immediate result of that event.

4. Although his Highness is no doubt aware of the dangerous nature of his disorder, yet it appears to me doubtful whether or not he will take any steps to secure the succession to any particular person, or whether he will make any public declaration on the subject. But under any circumstances it is, I think, obvious that the Baiza Bai will in the first instance succeed to the authority of the Maharaja. The power which she already enjoys, combined with the possession of the treasures of the State, must render her influence irresistible, independently of the right which she may be supposed to have to assume charge of the government. It is to be observed, however, that there is another wife of the Maharaja, senior to the Baiza Bai, named Rookma Bai; but she has always been treated with entire neglect, owing to the predominating influence of the Baiza Bai, to whose views I conclude she will continue to act in subserviency.

5. According to Hindoo usages, I believe the senior widow is the one who ought to adopt an heir, but even in the exercise of that right it is probable that Rookma Bai would be entirely guided by the Baiza Bai. The selection of an heir, however, is not a mere matter of choice; the son of the nearest male relation of the Maharaja ought, I believe, to be selected. His Highness has, I understand, several distant relations at Kaner Kerah, in the Deccan, but the nearest is said to be a man named Anand Row Pankerah, who was concerned in the affray in which the late Sergee Row Ghatgea lost his life, and who, on that occasion, fled from hence to Nagpore, where he died. This man's son, if he left one, is the nearest male relation of the Maharaja.

6. The adoption, however, is a matter for future consideration. What more urgently requires the attention of the British Government at present is the immediate succession to the power and authority of Scindiah; and it is a satisfactory consideration, that there is no probability of any dispute on that subject. It is also satisfactory, that although the immediate authority of the State will fall into the hands of a female, yet the energy of her character is likely to prevent any tumult or commotion among the troops here. In any other part of his Highness's dominions I do not anticipate any disturbance whatever.

7. Should affairs here take the course above anticipated on the demise of the Maharaja, I conclude, with reference to your instructions to me, under date the 26th November 1824, that we have only to allow them to do so, and not to interfere in any manner, unless our interference is called for.

* * * * *

9. From the nature of the Maharaja's complaints, the event contemplated in this letter may still be remote, although that can hardly be expected, unless some improvement takes place soon. But at all events I trust there will be sufficient time for me to receive any instructions with which the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council may be pleased to honour me on the subject.

(No. 46.)

LETTER from Resident at Gwalior to *G. Swinton, Esq.*: dated 20 January 1826.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the health of the Maharajah Dowlut Row Scindiah has somewhat improved within the last few days. I do not believe that much progress has been made towards the cure of his disease, but the symptoms are more favourable, and his Highness suffers less pain and uneasiness.

2. Previous to this favourable change, I understand that the expediency of the Maharajah's adopting a boy of the Scindia family was suggested by the Bala Bai, but no steps seemed to have been taken in the business, and the slightest appearance of amendment in his Highness's health will probably prevent any recurrence to the subject.

Gwalior Succession,
1826, 1827.

I am, &c.

(signed) *J. Stewart,*
Resident.

(No. 47.)

EXTRACT Letter from Secretary to Government to Resident at Gwalior ;
dated 27 January 1826.

1. I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches, dated the 3d, 5th and 9th instant, reporting the dangerous state of the Maharaja Dowlut Row Scindiah's health, and requesting a communication of the views and instructions of Government relative to the conduct which you are to pursue, in the event of his Highness's disorder terminating fatally.

2. The Governor-general in Council desires that you will express to Scindia his Lordship's sincere regret and condolence at his present sufferings, and his anxious hopes for the Maharaja's recovery ; and you will endeavour to soothe his mind by offering the most friendly assurances, should he be still in a state to receive consolation when this letter arrives.

3. It is with concern the Governor-general in Council learns that Scindia has neither taken any measures for the adoption of an heir, nor does he seem disposed to declare his wishes regarding his successor. The first step on your part, therefore, in the present juncture, should be to endeavour to persuade the Maharaja either to adopt a son himself, or to give the requisite permission in writing for making such adoption upon his death, and generally to declare formally his wishes regarding the arrangements to be framed for the administration of his country, when he shall have ceased to reign. The British Government will be fully prepared to recognise an adoption so made ; and you are authorised to give such assurances to Scindiah on that head as may induce him to follow our counsel, explaining at the same time distinctly that nothing can be farther from the wish and intention of the British Government than to exercise now or hereafter any intervention in the internal administration of his country, that we do not pretend to any right to control and regulate the succession to the State of Gwalior, and that our sole motive for offering advice on the subject arises out of the interest which we necessarily take in the maintenance of the general tranquillity.

* * * * *

6. The question of the adoption is not so entirely as you surmise a matter for future consideration, because to render the performance of that ceremony by the widow fully legal and binding, according to Hindoo law, the husband should convey to her a distinct authority to adopt after his demise. It is believed, however, that the usage of the Hindoo states of Central India does recognise the legality of an adoption by the widow, even without such express permission, and the Government will of course be satisfied in this case with the selection made by the general voice, or by a majority of the chiefs and principal persons of the country, according to usage, whether the letter of the written law be closely adhered to or not.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations ; 28 March 1826.

(No. 29.)

EXTRACT Letter from Resident at Gwalior to Secretary to Government ;
dated 1 February 1826.

1. I HAVE the honour to inform you that the health of the Maharaja Dowlut Row Sindiah continues nearly in the same state as when I addressed you on the 20th ultimo.

2. At his Highness's request I visited him on the 30th ultimo, when I found little alteration in his appearance, but a considerable improvement in his spirits since I last visited him.

3. It is not necessary that I should trouble his Lordship in Council with a statement of the Maharaja's symptoms and feelings, which he described to me in detail. The conclusion which he himself drew from them was, that the progress of the disease had been arrested, but that he was not making any advancement towards recovery.

(No. 32.)

EXTRACT Letter from Secretary to Government to Resident at Gwalior ;
dated 28 March 1826.

1. I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, dated the 1st ultimo.

2. The Governor-general in Council still hopes that you may have had an opportunity of recommending to Scindiah's consideration the expediency of appointing a successor to his dominions, and that you will have given this advice in such a manner as to convince the Maharaja that our only objects in urging it are to maintain the tranquillity and independence of his own state, and the general peace of Central India. His Lordship has addressed a letter to Scindia, expressing concern at his present illness, and offering assurances of sympathy and friendly condolence.

(No. 33.)

EXTRACT Letter from Resident at Gwalior to Secretary to Government ;
dated 6 March 1826.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Stirling's letter, under date the 27th January last.

2. Previous to the receipt of those instructions, it had been intimated to me that the Maharaja intended, as soon as health was a little improved, to request a private interview with me, and I did not, therefore, think it proper to solicit a conference until his Highness should find himself equal to undergo the fatigue of it. On the 1st instant I had the honour to receive Mr. Secretary Stirling's letter of the 17th ultimo, with the khurreetah from the Right honourable the Governor-general to the Maharaja ; a circumstance which I immediately intimated to his Highness, who, in consequence, fixed on the 4th instant for my visiting him, suggesting that I could explain to him at our interview the tenor of his Lordship's letter, and afterwards deliver it to him publicly.

3. I accordingly waited on the Maharaja on the 4th instant, when I had a very long private conference with him. After explaining to him the tenor of his Lordship's letter, I immediately introduced the subject of the succession, by stating that it was not only his Lordship's wish that the Maharaja's sovereignty should be preserved during his lifetime, but that he should transmit it unimpaired to his successor. That the uncertainty which existed at present with regard to the succession to the Maharaja, gave reason for apprehension that there might be disputes on the subject after his Highness's death, which it would be well to take measures for obviating. I then asked the Maharaja, if he had in his own mind decided who, in the event of his death, should be his successor. His Highness declared that he had not ; that although he had relations descended from the same forefathers several generations back, they had now become so remote, that they could hardly be considered of the same family with himself. Not, he observed, that I could not eat with them, or that I do not observe the ceremony of mourning on the death of some of them, but that is all. His Highness here entered into some genealogical details regarding his family, which my memory does not enable me to recapitulate. But that is of the less consequence, as the object of it was merely to show that he had no relations but such as are collateral and very remote. Under these circumstances, the Maharaja said that he had come to no decision in regard to his successor.

4. I then stated to his Highness, that although from his returning health there was every hope of his living many years, and the probability of his having heirs male of his body, yet that it was extremely desirable that he should provide for a different contingency, either by adoption or by preparing beforehand a written authority to some person to adopt an heir in the event of his decease. His Highness replied that he was quite aware of the propriety of what I advised, and that he

he would now take the subject into his serious consideration, and let me know his determination on my return from the hills.

5. I pointed out to the Maharaja, that it was neither necessary nor expedient, perhaps, to delay the communication of his resolution on this subject so long. In reply, he said, that if it was urgently desired that he should sooner make the communication, he would do so, but that otherwise he would wish to defer it until my return. As the Maharaja's health is evidently much improved, and there is, I think, now no immediate apprehension of his death, I did not think it proper to press the subject further.

6. It is difficult to conceive that the Maharaja has never thought of a successor, but the hopes of having a son, and the total indifference which he feels towards those who are distantly related to him by blood, renders him, I imagine, extremely averse to admit the necessity of making an adoption. The same objection does not hold in regard to leaving a written authority to adopt after his decease, and that I think is the course which he is likely to pursue, unless the Baiza Bai should have views of retaining the authority in her own hands after the Maharaja's decease, in which case it seems probable no arrangements whatever will be made by his Highness.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations ; 9 June 1826.

(No. 35.)

EXTRACT Letter from Assistant Resident in charge at Gwalior to Secretary to Government ; dated 22 May 1826.

1. I HAVE the honour to report to you, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council, that on the 13th instant the Maharaja Dowlut Row Scindiah performed the ceremonies of ablution, usual on recovery from illness. This event has been celebrated with great rejoicings, and a profuse distribution of honorary and eleemosynary presents.

2. Finding that it was desired that I should offer my congratulations in person, I waited on the Maharaja this morning, accompanied by the officers of the residency, and expressed to his Highness the satisfaction with which the intelligence of his recovery would be received by the Governor-general, and my hope that his Highness would now rapidly gain strength and find his health completely re-established.

* * * * *

5. This did not appear to me a fit opportunity for recalling to the Maharaja's notice the Governor-general in Council's advice respecting the appointment of a successor, but I have communicated, through Atmarah, the purport of the second paragraph of your despatch of the 28th March, and I am assured that some steps have been taken to ascertain the most eligible person to adopt.

(No. 36.)

EXTRACT Letter from Secretary to Government to Assistant in charge of Gwalior Residency ; dated 9 June 1826.

1. I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 22d ultimo.

2. The information therein contained is considered to be generally satisfactory, and the Governor-general in Council desires that you will offer to Scindia his Lordship's cordial congratulations on his recovery from his late serious illness.

* * * * *

4. The Governor-general in Council has not failed to notice with satisfaction the intelligence contained in your despatch, that Scindia has taken some steps for ascertaining the most eligible person to adopt as his heir and successor.

Gwalior Succession,
1826, 1827.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations; 15 September 1826.

(No. 7.)

EXTRACT Letter from Assistant in charge of the Gwalior Residency to Secretary to Governor-General; dated 21 August 1826.

1. I AM sorry to have to report to you, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, that for some time past the Maharaja Dowlut Row Scindiah's health has considerably deteriorated, and so many unfavourable symptoms have appeared within the last three or four days, that I deem it proper to bring the circumstance to his Lordship's notice. I understood that it is the opinion of the native physicians, that his Highness's dissolution is likely not to be very distant.

2. Should such an event occur previous to the Resident's return, I shall find principles laid down for the guidance of my conduct in the instructions of Government, under date the 27th January .

* * * * *

4. In the event of Scindiah's dying without making any previous or testamentary provision for the succession, the most regular right of adoption would fall to Rookma Bae, his Highness's second wife, the first being dead. This lady has been kept in obscurity and insignificance by the commanding influence of Byzee Bae, but I understand that she is not altogether deficient, either in spirit or ability, and that Scindiah entertains a considerable degree of regard for her. Talking over this important subject with Atmaram, I was much surprised at his throwing out a hint, that the Maharaja's indecision in adopting an heir arose in a great measure from his unwillingness to deprive her of the privilege of being the adoptive mother, which Byza Bae of course desires for herself, and he said I might, perhaps, ascertain the fact by asking Scindiah, if an opportunity occurred, "Into whose lap the boy would be adopted?" Nothing has been done on this point beyond sending a person to the Deckan, to ascertain among the Maharaja's young relations whose horoscope appears the most fortunate, and the desired information will most probably arrive too late.

* * * * *

8. The Right honourable the Governor-general will no doubt perceive that the speculations in which I have now indulged, originate entirely in the chance there is of Scindiah's demise without making any provision for the succession. Such an event, I confess, does not appear to me so improbable as to render a mature consideration of the consequences unnecessary, and it is so much to be deprecated, that I have considered it my duty to send for Atmaram, and to desire him to take the earliest opportunity of bringing prominently to his Highness's notice the Governor-general's anxiety that all chance of a disputed succession be removed. He said he thought it likely that Scindiah himself would speak to me on the subject, for which my attendance at the durbar, to present the khurreeta from his Lordship, lately received, will afford an opportunity.

(No. 9.)

EXTRACT Letter from Assistant in charge of the Gwalior Residency to Secretary to the Governor-General; dated 25 August 1826.

1. On the 9th instant I had the honour to receive from the Persian Secretary to Government a khurreeta from the Right honourable the Governor-general to the Maharaja Dowlut Row Scindiah, announcing his Lordship's intended journey to the Western Provinces; my reception at the durbar to present it was at first deferred till the conclusion of the Mohurram, and afterwards in consequence of his Highness's increased indisposition, and particularly a violent pain in his ear. I was, however, invited to attend the Maharaja yesterday, and requested to go alone, as his Highness wished to have some private conversation with me.

* * * * *

3. After conversing some time on indifferent topics, his Highness removed everybody but Hindoo Row, and then invited from me a communication on the subject lately brought to his notice through Atmaram. I accordingly reminded his Highness of the conversation he had formerly had with Captain Stewart, respecting

respecting the adoption of a successor, and requested to know if he had taken any steps for the purpose. The Maharaja replied, that from all his relations being so distant and unknown to him, he was not exactly aware who was the proper person for him to adopt, and had therefore sent people to the Deckan to make the necessary inquiries. I then stated, according to the tenor of Mr. Secretary Swinton's letter of the 28th March last, that our only objects in urging the point are to maintain the tranquillity and independence of his own state, and the general peace of the country. I assured his Highness that his wishes regarding his successor to his sovereignty and power would be fully recognized by the Governor-general, provided they were distinctly made known; the Maharaja said, in conclusion, that every desired arrangement should be made in the course of two or three months. In speaking on so disagreeable a subject to a sick prince, it was difficult to say all that was intended without overstepping the bounds of delicacy; but I think I said enough to make his Highness understand how desirable it is that there should be no chance of a disputed succession in the event of a sudden misfortune.

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EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations; 6 October 1826.

(No. 39.)

EXTRACT Letter from Deputy Secretary to Government, to Assistant Resident in Charge of the Gwalior Residency.

1. I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches, dated 21st and 25th ultimo, and to communicate to you the following instructions and observations in reply.

2. The most important topics comprised in the above papers, are, the late increase of Scindiah's malady again threatening his early dissolution, and the renewed consideration of the state of affairs which may be expected to arise in the event of the Maharaja expiring without either nominating a successor or leaving distinct authority for adopting an heir. On the first point, the Governor-general observes, that the professional opinion expressed by Dr. Panton, on the 30th ultimo, regarding his Highness's complaint, is calculated to relieve the apprehensions excited by your first communication, and his Lordship trusts that the period of their fatal termination is yet distant. With respect to the second point, your letter of the 21st ultimo presents a view of the case somewhat different from that taken in the Resident's despatch of the 9th January last.

* * * * *

4. As the British Government has no wish to take advantage of the present opening, either to require a right of control over Scindiah's internal government, or to appropriate to itself any part of his territories; the result most to be desired by us on the Maharaja's demise, is a tranquil succession, and the speedy and firm establishment of a party in power, with which we may renew the existing relations of friendship and amity. Should the Maharaja, therefore, who, as the absolute and despotic ruler of the country, must be considered to possess the undoubted right of determining the succession, either adopt an heir, or declare which of his widows is to exercise that right, or devise any other legitimate mode of providing for the administration of his territories after his death, it will be our business to acquiesce in the arrangement, without, however, holding out the expectation of our exerting armed interference in its support hereafter, or in any shape guaranteeing his election.

5. The more probable event seems to be, that Scindia will expire without taking any formal steps to provide for the succession. Whatever scruples and considerations may operate with the Maharaja to prevent a full declaration of his intentions, and notwithstanding that the tenor of the information contained in your letter of the 21st ultimo is rather calculated to inspire uncertainty as to his real wishes and feelings on the subject, the Governor-general can still scarcely doubt that Scindiah desires and expects the Baiza Bae to succeed him in the exercise of the sovereign power and the general management of affairs. She appears to be the confidante of all his counsels; to exert a marked and leading influence in the administration of public affairs; to have the command of a large part of the public treasure, and may therefore, in some degree, be considered

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actually in possession of the powers of government, with Scindiah's consent and concurrence. * * * * * If the cause of Baeza Bae is unpopular, his Lordship supposes that, at all events, neither can that of Rookma Bae, a secluded female, who was never allowed to participate in public affairs, and has long lived in complete retirement and insignificance, lay claim to any positive degree of public affairs. With regard to the right of adoption, and the claim to the regency thence resulting, the Governor-general imagines that, according to the established principles of Hindoo law, neither widow would possess a valid and substantial title to adopt, unless formally empowered by the husband; and in this state of things, the lady who can best support her pretensions, and unite the voices of the majority of the leading men in the country on her side, may fairly be regarded as the legitimate ruler for the time being, until some more satisfactory arrangement can be framed.

7. If this despatch, therefore, reaches you in time to guide your proceedings on Scindiah's demise, the course for you to pursue, when that event occurs, will be to observe and report fully all that happens, but to abstain from any act or declaration committing the Government to the acknowledgment of a successor until you receive explicit orders to that effect, placing your non-interference distinctly and avowedly on the ground that you await the instructions of the Right honourable the Governor-general. You will at the same time be prepared to receive, without inviting, applications or representations from either and all parties, and in forwarding them you will submit the fullest information which it is in your power to procure respecting the general state of the feeling which may prevail, the wishes of the people in regard to the succession, the actual degree of according acquired by any party, and the means which the different appear to possess of enforcing their respective pretensions.

Sic orig.

8. As there are several points which are not sufficiently elucidated in the papers before Government, and his Lordship's information on others is by no means complete, you are desired to submit, without delay, a full report under the following heads; viz.—

1st. An account of the several members of the Scindia family and relations now living, both male and female.

2d. As to the degree of authority, avowed or indirect, which her Highness Baeza Bhaee has been allowed to exercise of late years in administering the affairs of the government.

(No. 41.)

EXTRACT Letter from Assistant in charge of Gwalior Residency to *Holt Mackenzie*, Esq.; dated 18 September 1826.

1. THE health of the Maharaja Dowlut Row Scindia, I am sorry to say, continues to decline; his Highness fatigued himself considerably during the Junum Ushtonee festival, and since then the watery swellings in different parts of his body have increased, and he is now so feeble as to be unable to walk without assistance.

2. The Maharaja has secluded himself so much more than usual during the last 20 days, that hardly any business has been done, and even Atmaram has only had access to his Highness two or three times. I find, however, that my representation, combined probably with the evidently precarious state of his Highness's health, has produced a serious consideration of the necessity for making some arrangement for the successor.

* * * * *

6. In my last private conference with the Maharaja, I repeated a suggestion which had previously been offered to his Highness by Captain Stewart, that if there was any impediment to the early adoption of a successor, or any motive to prevent his making his intentions on this subject public, he should deposit with the Resident a sealed testamentary instrument, to be acted on in case of accident. His Highness made no reply at the time, but Atmaram thinks he has an intention of taking this step, and told me, when I saw him last, that he expected to receive some communication on the subject whenever he can speak to Scindia alone.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations ; 20 October 1826.

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(No. 20.)

EXTRACT Letter from Deputy Secretary to Government, to Assistant in charge of Gwalior Residency ; dated 3d October 1826.

1. I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 18th ultimo, and to convey to you the following orders of the Right honourable the Governor-general in reply.

2. His Lordship apprehends, from the tenor of the information transmitted, that the death of Scindia cannot be far distant, and that we must look to a struggle for the succession as a probable consequence of that event.

* * * * *

4. The fact of the Resident having recommended to the Maharaja to deposit in his hands a sealed testamentary instrument, declaratory of his determination regarding the succession, was not before communicated to Government ; the Governor-general does not consider it desirable that the Resident should be made the depositary of such an instrument, except on two conditions.

1st. That the act of depositing is public, open and avowedly voluntary on the Maharaja's part.

2d. That it is distinctly declared and understood, that the British authorities accept the trust to secure the undisputed ascertainment of Scindia's will, but that we do not in any degree pledge ourselves to guarantee and enforce its disposition, whatever they may prove to be ; you will understand, however, that if his Highness should actually himself put into your hands a document of the above nature, in compliance with the advice offered to him by the Resident and yourself, the Governor-general is not prepared to say that you should reject the trust, even though circumstances may not admit of the above conditions being completely fulfilled.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations ; 25 October 1826.

Ordered, That the foregoing* private letter from Major *Stewart* to Mr. *Stirling* • *Sic orig.* be here recorded.

(No. 9.)

EXTRACT Letter from Major *Stewart* to Mr. *Stirling* ; dated 6 October 1826.

* * * * *

I HAVE regularly received from Major *Fielding* copies of his reports to Government during my absence, and his letter of the 21st of August last attracted my particular attention. There appears no doubt from that despatch to be a considerable in the aspect of affairs from what existed at the time when *Sindiah* was first taken seriously ill. I am still, however, disposed to adhere to the opinion I then expressed, that the *Baiza Bai* will, in the event of *Sindiah's* death, succeed, with little or no opposition, to the chief authority in the state.

Orig. defective.

With respect to the strict justice of the case, I believe that *Rookma Bai*, as the senior widow, would have the best claim to adopt an heir, if an adoption can take place without any will of *Sindiah's* directing it to be made, which seems to be a doubtful point ; yet even in that case I am disposed to think that *Rookma Bai* would make the adoption agreeably to the wishes of the *Baiza Bai*, and not entirely in subordination to her. *Sindiah* himself, in as far as I am able to judge, is very indifferent who his successor may be among those from whom he must, if he adopt an heir, make the selection ; there is none for whom he can feel any regard, or who is even, I imagine, known to him ; but his whole conduct, I think, seems to show the expectation (if not the wish) that the immediate power after his decease will fall into the hands of *Baiza Bai* and her brother. After having been accustomed for the last seven or eight years of his life to yield in all points to the will of the *Baiza Bai*, I think it improbable that now, under the debility induced by disease, he will be able to resist her influence.

It will be recollected that his Highness promised that on my return from the hills he* communicate to me his wishes in regard to a successor ; this was • *Sic orig.* properly

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probably said merely to get rid of the question at the time; and the friendly and confidential manner which has been shown towards Major Fielding during my absence, leaves me little hope that he will be more communicative to me than he has been to that gentleman, and I fear he will die at last without either nominating an heir or leaving a will of any kind.

Orig. I am not sufficiently informed to be able to give a positive answer to the query in the latter part of your letter, but I should suppose that an adoption by either widows, in order to be valid, should be made by the express will of the deceased husband; failing that, I conclude that give the right, and that the Baiza Bai will either herself adopt, or make Rookma Bai adopt, the child of her own choice, and that she will exercise the powers of regent during the minority.

In the discussions that are likely to arise on Sindiah's death, it appears to me very desirable that all parties may adjust their differences themselves, and that a quiet succession may take place without the interference of the British Government in any way.

(No. 10.)

EXTRACT Letter from Resident at Gwalior to *A. Stirling Esq.*; dated
9 October 1826.

1. I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 21st ultimo.

By my private letter to you under date the 6th instant, the Right honourable the Governor-general will have observed that notwithstanding the change that has taken place in the aspect of affairs at Gwalior since the period when Sindiah was first taken seriously ill, I adhere to the opinion I then expressed, that the Baiza Bai will, on the Maharaja's death, succeed to the exercise of the sovereign power. The reasons on which I have come to this conclusion are stated in my private letter above adverted to, and to which I hope I may be permitted to refer.

On the several points in which information is required, it will no doubt be furnished by Major Fielding.

(No. 11.)

EXTRACT Letter from the Assistant in charge of the Gwalior Residency, to
A. Stirling, Esq.; dated 16 October 1826.

Secret.

1. ATMARAM came to me again yesterday to report a conversation he had with Baiza Bae, and which she desired him to communicate to me under strict injunctions of secrecy.

2. Her Highness seems to be perfectly aware of the precarious state of Scindiah's health, and of his determination not to adopt a son. She said, she had often urged him to do it, or else to select some young relation eligible for the purpose, to keep him by him, and educate him, that he might be ready for adoption on an emergency. She added, that Scindia appeared to approve the advice, and that Baiza Bae ostensibly supported it, but always contrived to throw some impediment in the way of its execution; that, in fact, she is determined Scindiah shall not make any arrangement for the succession; and that her object is so to manage matters, as gradually to place in Hindoo Row's hands, not only the executive power, but the sovereignty itself. This the Right honourable the Governor-general will observe can only be a matter of conjecture; but I think the formation of such a scheme not very improbable, and its success, from the character of the man as well as other circumstances, very much to be deprecated.

* * * * *

4. Baiza Bae seems to be as much in the dark as everybody else with respect to Scindia's male relatives. She said, there were many of the Scindiah's family, but none of the family that attained sovereignty, and that to find the common ancestor of the Maharaja, and any person now living, their pedigrees must be traced back so far that consanguinity almost ceased. It therefore appeared to her,

her, that the person for Scindia's adoption should be determined by selection, rather than by mere propinquity of blood.

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5. Atmarain at the same time conveyed to me Scindiah's desire to see me privately this afternoon.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations; 10 November 1826.

(No. 47.)

EXTRACT Letter from Assistant in charge of the Gwalior Residency to
A. Stirling, Esq.; dated 4 October 1826.

1. I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 21st ultimo, and shall lose no time in completing and laying before the Right honourable the Governor-general the information required on the five points stated in the 8th paragraph; some of them I shall touch upon in the present communication, and report more fully hereafter.

2. The Maharaja's health during the last fortnight has experienced several fluctuations, during which alarming symptoms have appeared, such as vomitings and coldness of the extremities; and the general result is an increased degree of debility, so that his Highness is now unable to rise without assistance, or to remain in a sitting posture for any length of time. He does not appear, however, to be under any apprehension, and talks of going out at the Dussera on the 10th instant, and on a shooting excursion afterwards; but it appears very doubtful whether he will be equal to either.

3. In the meantime nothing is done with regard to the succession, and I begin to suspect that the Maharaja has a deliberate intention not to make any arrangement, and that the sentiment to which he has often given utterance when pressed on an unpalatable topic, that, "after his death we should be masters of everything, and might do as we pleased," was something more than a vague evasive expression. I do not, however, construe it into any idea on his part of constituting the Company his heirs, as seems to have been imagined, but that it would fall to the British Government to arrange the succession, and make its own terms with the successor. This idea has been excited in my mind, not only by the sentiments attributed to him towards Rookma Bae, as stated in my letter of the 21st August, but by his present conduct, from youths reported from the Deckan, having, I understand, been positively disapproved. Two of them are related in the female line to Baiza Bae, and Sindiah is said to have peremptorily rejected them immediately.

Orig.

4. Several circumstances lead me to think that Sindiah is, in fact, very indifferent as to what becomes of his dominions after his death. His present apathy on the subject of the succession is in itself a strong proof of this, and it is also to be considered that his territories out of the Deckan are held merely as military possessions; his capital even to this day is called the Cantonment, and all his principal officers as well as himself consider the Deckan as their home. He consequently does not look to the future welfare of the country with any feeling of patriotism, and that which exists in most men's minds, of satisfaction in transmitting to his own posterity, or to a beloved relative a splendid inheritance, can have little force with a man whose successor must be a very distant cousin whom he never saw, and probably never heard of. To this must be added the conflicting interests of his two wives; one of whom has a right which he will not abrogate, and dare not confirm, and all that remains to create any anxiety in his mind is the mere name of Sindia's sovereignty.

* * * * *

8. Although, according to the regular canons of Hindoo law, neither widow might have a valid title to adopt without being empowered by the husband, yet the result of my inquiries leads me strongly to believe that, practically, when the husband dies suddenly, or otherwise, without making any arrangements for an adoption, the right of the senior wife is universally acknowledged, but she is considered bound to adopt the nearest male relative within seven degrees; a difference of opinion, however, seems to exist as to the necessity of the adopted son being under the age of seven years; and this point is probably determined more from considerations of expediency than any fixed principle.

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9. The right of Rookma Bae is accordingly not disputed ; and the points to be considered with regard to her are, whether she will be disposed, and whether she will be able to exert it.

* * * * *

14. I shall now proceed to afford such information as I at present possess on the point stated in your letter of the 21st ultimo.

1st. An account of the several members of the Sindiah family and relations now living, both male and female.

Dowlut Row is the only remaining male descendant of Ramoojee, who was his great-grandfather, and the first of the Scindia family that rose to distinction. He had five sons ; first, Jye Appah ; second, Duttojee ; third, Juttobah ; fourth, Fukojee ; fifth, Madhaje. The first had one son, Junkojee, who died without issue ; the second and third died without issue ; the fourth had three sons, first, Kedarjee ; second, Ronjee, who both died without issue ; and third, Annund Row, who left issue Dowlut Row Ranoojees ; fifth son, Madhaje, succeeded to his authority, and is always called the great Maharaja ; he left issue, a daughter, Bala Bae (who has no children living), and adopted as his son and heir Dowlut Row. Dowlut Row had two daughters, and a son who died an infant. The eldest daughter married Bappoo Synaputtee, and died leaving three daughters ; the eldest is married to the Puar of Dhar, and the other two are still unmarried. Dowlut Row's youngest daughter, aged about 18, is the virgin bride of Ramchunder Putunker. From this it appears, that to find Dowlut Row's nearest male relative, we must go back to the descendants of the brothers of his great-grandfather. I have set on foot inquiries to obtain the necessary information, but anticipated much difficulty in making it complete and satisfactory, on account of the obscurity in which they have always remained. Two I have notice of, but not yet of their respective pedigrees. One, Gunput Row, a man of about thirty-eight (38) years of age, is at present here in a situation little superior to that of a common horseman, and was lately accused by Byza Bae of having communicated with me to put forward his claim ; the other, Anund Row, was implicated in the death of Sirjee Row Ghautkin, and was consequently obliged to fly. He, or a son of his, is said to be now living somewhere in the Jhausy country.

2d. As to the degree of authority, avowed or indirect, which her Highness Byza Bae has been allowed to exercise of late years in administering the affairs of the government, and in what shape ; also, the office held by her brother, Hindoo Row, at the Court of Gwalior.

Since the death of Serjee Row, Sindiah has had no avowed responsible minister, but has professed to administer the affairs of the state himself. The authority of Byza Bae consequently results from the commanding influence she exercises over the mind of her husband, and this in most ordinary transactions is paramount ; her reputation for ability, I conceive, arises more from the determination and energy of her character than from her possessing a more than common share of good sense. She is generally supposed to have exerted all her influence to drive Sindiah into hostilities with the British Government, for the protection of the Pindarees in 1817, and for the succour of the Paishwa in 1818. On the latter occasion she quitted Gwalior in a rage, and the Maharaja was obliged to go three marches to bring her back. Bala Bae has the credit of having both times saved the state from ruin. I know of no salutary measure having ever originated with Byza Bae ; and her power with Sindiah is principally exerted in the nomination, confirmation or removal of public officers, on which occasion nuzzerana to herself is the principal consideration ; her good word, in short, is notoriously always in the market. She holds Oojim, Shahjehanpoor, Soonkutch, Boorhanpoor and other districts in jageer. Hindoo Row holds Nurwur, and other places in jagheer, and is occasionally supplied by Sindiah with cash, but his Highness has always firmly resisted the Bae's importunities to appoint him to a ministerial office ; his military command being merely about 100 horse. His influence over Sindiah is exercised chiefly through his sister, and, like hers, always ready for the best bidder.

(No. 49.)

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EXTRACT Letter from Assistant in charge of the Gwalior Residency to
A. Stirling, Esq.; dated 8 October 1826.

1. I HAVE just received a visit from Atmaram, with a communication which I deem it proper to bring to the particular notice of the Right honourable the Governor-general without loss of time.

2. Since the last unfavourable change in Dowlut Row Sindiah's health, I have frequently urged him to prevail on his Highness to make some arrangement for the succession. I have pointed out to him the many inconveniences that would result from the neglect of this precaution, and the anxious desire of the Governor-general that he should come to some decision. Suspicion is so natural to the mind of a Maharatta, that I said everything I could to convince him that this anxiety arose from the most friendly and disinterested motives; and particularly pointed out to him, that if the British Government had any selfish or ambitious intentions, nothing could tend so completely to promote them as the Maharaja dying without leaving anybody who had a good title to succeed to his sovereignty. This observation appeared at the time to strike Atmaram very forcibly, and he promised to bring it prominently to Sindiah's notice.

3. I mentioned, in my letter of the 18th ultimo, that Atmaram expected an unreserved communication on this subject whenever he could confer with the Maharaja alone. His Highness has been so sedulously attended, I might say watched, by Hindoo Rao for some time past, that this opportunity did not occur till yesterday, when, in consequence of Sindiah having gone to spend a couple of days at a garden, he found means to have a private *tête-à-tête* conversation with him.

4. When Atmaram began to bring the subject to his Highness's notice, the first observation was, why should the British Government take so much interest in this business? To this he replied, that we were interested not only to preserve the general peace of the country, but that, from the friendship that had existed so many years between the two states, and particularly from that friendship having continued uninterrupted when all the other Maharatta powers combined against us in 1817 and 1818, we were desirous of seeing his sovereignty pass unimpaired to his successor. He then brought forward the arguments with which I had furnished him, and finally observed, that we had frequently professed great friendship for his Highness, and that this was a proof of it. To this his Highness seems to have replied more candidly than graciously: that he did not care much for friendship, of which the benefits were to appear after his death; but, entering more particularly into the subject, he said, that as to the future fate of his territories he felt no interest; that he cared nothing whatever for any person that could succeed him; that even if he did, the dissensions on this subject would prevent his coming to any decision; and that if the Governor-general felt the interest he professed in the continuance of his name and sovereignty, his Lordship would make the necessary arrangements better than he himself could. In reply, during this conversation, to an observation of Atmaram, that if no arrangement for the succession was made during his lifetime there might be violent disputes in his family afterwards, his Highness made a reply, which, though trivial in itself, appears to me to speak volumes as to the predominant feelings of his mind, and his reckless indifference as to what may happen hereafter. He said, "Very true, disputes in a family are much to be deprecated; I shall bring this to the particular notice of the Baec, and desire her not to continue to urge any new arrangements, or to persecute me with remonstrances as to my diet; I know my present illness is mortal, and it is very hard I should be deprived of such little gratifications as I can enjoy during the short time I have to live." From the several little expressions that dropped in the course of Atmaram's report of this conversation, I should suppose that the feeling in Sindiah's mind is this: "If the British Government is disposed to aggrandize itself from my territories after my death, nothing that I can do will prevent it; if it is not so disposed, it will make the necessary arrangements for the succession without my being harassed in deciding it myself." I tried to ascertain whether, though Scindiah would come to no avowed decision on this subject, there was any line of future conduct for which his Highness would privately feel a preference, but Atmaram said he had not been able to elicit any expression to induce him to suppose there was, that he

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appeared perfectly indifferent, but was gratified by the assurances of our good intentions; he promised, however, to try again if he had an opportunity.

* * * * *

6. I had requested Atmaram, among others, to procure for me information regarding Sindia's relations; he told me to-day he had got some papers on the subject, but could not make out who was next to him; and this difficulty I find everywhere. As the most likely place to obtain this information, I have addressed the Bombay Government to request that inquiries might be made at Poonah, and in Sindia's native country.

(No. 53.)

EXTRACT Letter from Assistant Resident in charge of Gwalior Residency to
A. Stirling, Esq.; dated 17 October 1826.

12. I FOUND the Maharaja, at the visit of yesterday, evidently in a much worse state than when I saw him in August; his limbs are more emaciated, his face and extremities more swollen, his eyes and ends of his fingers yellow, and he is obliged to have people to lift him up when he rises, and a cushion placed on his lap to lean on when he sits, as well as one behind. I have heard from authority, which, although not to be implicitly relied on, is tolerably good, that it is his Highness's intention, when he finds himself dying, to send or deliver his sicca kutri (his seal and dagger) to the Resident, with a request that the British Government will make all the necessary arrangements for the succession to his sovereignty. Such a proceeding appears to me very probable.

(No. 55.)

EXTRACT Letter from Assistant in charge of Gwalior Residency to
A. Stirling, Esq.; dated 20 October 1826.

1. I HAVE now the honour to submit, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, some further details on the points stated in your despatch of the 21st ultimo.

2. The first is the genealogy of Dowlut Row Scindiah, and of his nearest male relatives. The person from whose papers I compiled it is very positive as to its accuracy, but I am not, and I think it is evidently incomplete; at least it appears extraordinary that so many persons should have only one son.

3. The man whom we should consider the next heir is Peerajee. I understand he is now about 25 or 30 years of age, and living at Ranurkaira, in the Deckan, on the produce of his plough. I do not learn that he has any children. Passing him, the next is Patloba, a man of middle age, now living in camp in total obscurity. I hear he gets four or five rupees per month for food, and occasional presents, which make up his annual income to about 150 rupees. He has a son, Moogut Row, in the Deckan, aged nine years, who is among those considered eligible for the Maharaja's adoption. The next is Redarjee, a man of about 50, now living here on a small allowance and occasional presents. It would appear that he is considered nearer than Patloba, for he officiates at all religious ceremonies when a near relation is required, and then only goes to the palace. I understand he would be the person to set fire to the Maharaja's funeral pile. He has a son here, a very fine boy of about 10, who is also considered eligible for adoption. The Bae is said to have carefully prevented his ever going near Sindiah.

4. There are also a number of the family in camp, forming the party of horse, called the Sindiah Mundlee, who are more distantly related, and they also get little more than bare subsistence; the principal of them are descended from Changojee, Scindiah's brother, and I have not thought it necessary to include them in the genealogy. It used to be the policy of Maharaja Sindiah to employ the members of his family, and give them commands in the army, but Baeza Bae has carefully excluded them, as well as everybody else who could possibly establish an influence with the Maharaja that might interfere with her own.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations ; 24 November 1826.

Gwalior Succession,
1826, 1827.

(No. 2.)

EXTRACT Letter from *A. Stirling*, Esq., Deputy Secretary to Government in attendance on the Governor-General, to Major *Stewart*, Resident at Gwalior ; dated 7 November 1826.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 9th ultimo, and of the several despatches from Major Fielding, of the dates noted in the margin. Those papers are considered to contain highly interesting and important matter, and the subject of them occupies the serious attention of the Right honourable the Governor-general ; but his Lordship does not propose to issue any fresh instructions in reference thereto, until he has had an opportunity of learning your sentiments on the state of affairs at Gwalior, after your return to that court.

One, dated 4 Oct.
One, dated 8 Oct.
One, dated 16 Oct.
One, dated 17 Oct.
One, dated 20 Oct.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations ; 1 December 1826.

(No. 29.)

EXTRACT Letter from *J. Stewart*, Esq., Resident at Gwalior, to *A. Stirling*, Esq. ; dated 11 November 1826.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, that I yesterday paid my visit to Sindiah, on my return, and am happy to state that I found him somewhat improved in his health and appearance since he was visited by Major Fielding on the 17th ultimo. From the nature of the Maharaja's disease, there is no doubt that his life is in imminent danger, and there is, I imagine, very little chance of his recovery, but, judging from appearances, I should think it probable that he may live for several months to come ; at the same time, it is to be observed, that any unfavourable change or accession of disease, might carry him off suddenly. His strength is much reduced, the swellings of his legs and abdomen continue, and he suffers occasionally severely from a cough, but, in other respects, he appears to be free from pain and uneasiness. He sits in durbar, and transacts the ordinary business of the state, or listens to music. He was talkative and rather cheerful at our meeting yesterday, and whatever danger he may be in, he appears not to be fully aware of it. I am disposed to think he felt more alarm about his life before my departure than he does now. He has become, in fact, accustomed to his disease, and it has lost its terrors in a great degree.

2. Under the circumstances I have stated, his Lordship will not be surprised at my having as yet received no intimation of the Maharaja's wishes or intentions in regard to his successor. On the march to Gwalior, I received a letter from him expressing his satisfaction at hearing of my return. As this was quite an unusual thing, I was led to suppose that he was desirous of communicating with me on the subject alluded to, but as he has, I think, been pressed sufficiently on that point, I did not think it right even to intimate a wish to have a private interview with his Highness. I visited him yesterday quite publicly, accompanied by all the gentlemen of the residency. In the course of conversation, however, the Maharaja alluded to the interview I had with him before my departure, and said that he recollected the promise he had made on that occasion, and that he should wish to see me privately for the purpose of speaking on that subject, in a few days. I said that I should be happy to wait on his Highness whenever he wished me to do so ; at the same time, I gave him to understand that I was not at all solicitous on the subject, and that it was not necessary, notwithstanding his promise, to revert to the subject, unless it was really his wish to do so. His Highness will probably, in a few days, request a private interview, but I suspect that he is yet far from having made up his mind on the subject of his successor.

Gwalior Succession,
1826, 1827.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations ; 22 December 1826.

(No. 25.)

EXTRACT Letter from the Resident at Gwalior to *A. Stirling, Esq.*; dated 28 November 1826.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Maharaja Dowlut Row Sindiah made an appointment to see me privately on the 23d instant, but was prevented from doing so on that day in consequence of the effects of some medicine he had taken on the preceding day. His Highness then appointed yesterday to see me, and I accordingly waited upon him in the evening.

2. Soon after I entered the durbar every body was directed to withdraw, and I was left alone with the Maharaja. His Highness immediately began the conversation, by alluding to the promise he had made to me before I left this for the hills, and said that two things among Hindoos were of a very delicate and difficult nature—the one was marriage, and the other adoption. In the former case, when proposals were made and accepted, it was a very serious thing if either party drew back. It was a sort of aspersion on the character of the other, of which they had a right to demand an explanation. In the same manner in regard to an adoption ; if a proposal of the kind were made, and the person proposed for adoption should afterwards, from any cause, be rejected, it was considered as a sort of reflection on him and his family. Again, the Maharaja said, “If I were actually to adopt a boy, and should afterwards have a son of my own body, this would cause great disappointment to the person adopted, who would expect perhaps to succeed me, whereas the right of succession would belong to the other, and the adopted son could only claim a liberal subsistence for life.” For these reasons, the Maharaja said, that it was necessary to proceed with great caution and delicacy in such a business. That he had, however, sent to the Deccan to have the necessary inquiries made regarding his relations ; and that he had heard of several boys, who were, he said, in some respects fit subjects for adoption, but in others not so. He again adverted to the very remote degree of consanguinity in which any persons were connected with him, and said that relations fourteen degrees removed were not considered eligible for adoption. Even in that case, however, there was a mode of adopting from a different family altogether, though that was very unusual.

3. In reply, I stated, that since his Highness had now so much recovered, the adoption of an heir was certainly much less an object of solicitude than it had been ; yet I still thought that he did right not to give up the intention, and I trusted he would soon find a suitable person for the purpose. That if he should afterwards have a son of his own, still the adoption would not be the cause of any embarrassment, since, as he had observed, the son of his own body would in that case succeed to the sovereignty, and he could very easily make a provision for the adopted son. To this his Highness assented, but did not seem disposed to prosecute the discussion further.

4. I was very unwilling, however, to let slip so favourable an opportunity of ascertaining the Maharaja's sentiments in regard to the person whom he conceived to be best entitled to succeed to the authority on his death. After a considerable pause, therefore, I said that I proposed shortly to pay my respects to the Governor-general, at Agra, and that in conversing with me on the state of affairs here, I thought it likely his Lordship would put a question to me that I should not be able to answer. His Highness inquiring with some curiosity what that question was, I replied, that though his Highness had now so far recovered that there was no immediate apprehension of his death, yet his Lordship might probably ask me, in the event of that occurring before his Highness had made the proposed adoption, who would succeed to his power and authority. The Maharaja immediately replied, “There is no one entitled to claim the succession ; there is no one sufficiently nearly related to me to give him a right to succeed.” Does your Highness mean, I said, that on your death the sovereignty of your house is terminated for ever ? You have, I observed, sons-in-law, a brother-in-law ; there is the Bala Bai ; what I wish to know is, if any of them, and who, is entitled on your death, to give orders in this camp, and in your dominions. “None of them,” his Highness replied ; the sons-in-law have no claim, and this he repeated twice. I said I supposed they had not, but who, I wished to know, had ? “A man's wife,” the Maharaja replied, “if she has any sense or understanding, is the person entitled

entitled to manage his affairs after his death." But your Highness has two wives, I observed. "True," he replied, "but I suppose you know that one of them is entirely out of the question in a case of this kind. I admit," he continued, "that according to usage (*serestita*) she is the person, but to assume a charge of this kind a woman must have sense, knowledge of the world, and experience in business, all which she has not; she is entirely unsuited to anything of the kind; in fact she is fit only to sit quietly in her house, and to eat her food, and nothing more." After so explicit a declaration on the part of the Maharaja, I did not think it right to discuss a subject of this delicate nature further; indeed, I thought it necessary to apologize to his Highness for the liberty I had taken in putting these questions to him, and said, I trusted he did not consider them as either impertinent or improper. He replied that he thought them by no means so. Soon after this the private part of our conference ended.

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12. The general opinion here, as far as I have been able to ascertain it, is, that the Baiza Bacc will succeed to the Maharaja's authority, and that she will endeavour to retain that authority in her own hands, unless the British Government should interfere and insist on an adoption being made.

13. The adoption of an heir, should Sindiah die without performing that ceremony, is a subject that may be left for future discussion.

EXTRACT Bengal Secret Consultations; 6 April 1827.

(No. 2.)

EXTRACT Letter from the Resident at Gwalior to *A. Stirling*, Esq.; dated
20 March 1827.

I REGRET to have to report to you, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, that the health of the Maharaja Dowlut Rao Sindiah has of late become so much worse, as to render it, in my opinion, now probable that his Highness cannot survive many days.

In as far as I am able to judge from appearance, no steps are likely to be taken before the Maharaja's death towards the adoption of an heir. Indeed, as the persons who are supposed to have the best claim to adoption are still in the Deccan, though their pictures have been sent here, I doubt if it will now be possible for his Highness himself to perform that ceremony, unless he were, on the emergency of the occasion, to adopt some very distant relation here, which is, however, not at all probable. I think it is improbable that his Highness will make any public declaration of his wishes in regard to his heir before his death. He has all along shown such a remarkable degree of indifference on that subject, though he must have been aware, in a great measure, of his danger, that I cannot think he will turn his thoughts towards it in the pain and anguish of his latter moments.

(No. 4.)

From Resident at Gwalior to Mr. Secretary *Stirling*; dated Gwalior,
21 March 1827, 7 P.M.

Sir,

IT is with deep regret that I have to announce to you, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, that the Maharaja Dowlut Rao Sindiah expired this morning, about 11 o'clock. Having been all day engaged at the palace, I have not now time to detail the particulars of this event, but shall have the honour of forwarding a full report to-morrow. His Highness was in the 48th year of his age.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Stewart*.

Gwalior Succession.
1826, 1827.

(No. 7.)

EXTRACT Letter from the Resident at Gwalior to Mr. Secretary *Stirling* ;
dated 22 March 1827.

I YESTERDAY reported to you the death of his Highness Dowlut Rao Sindiah, and it is now my duty to state, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, the particulars of that melancholy event.

2. About nine o'clock yesterday morning, a horseman came at full speed from the Maharaja's camp to the residency, with a message from Hindoo Rao, stating that the Maharaja had expressed an anxious wish to see me, and begging that I would as soon as possible proceed to the palace. Conceiving that the Maharaja must be in his last moments, I instantly mounted a horse, and accompanied by Captain Dyke alone, I reached the palace in a very short time after I had received the message. On my arrival there I found an anxious crowd outside, and all the chiefs and people of respectability assembled in the different apartments of the palace. As soon as I met Hindoo Rao, I inquired anxiously after the Maharaja: Hindoo Rao said he was very ill, and that I should see him immediately; I believe his native physicians were then with him. Hindoo Rao and I then sat down apart from others, and I inquired more particularly regarding the state in which his Highness was; and I asked if it had been by his express desire that I had been sent for. Hindoo Rao said it was, and that the Maharaja had come to the resolution of making an adoption. He then said, that the pictures of two boys had been received from the Deccan, but that they themselves could not reach this for some time, indeed they had not even been sent for; that it had therefore been proposed, provided it met with my countenance, to adopt some one now present in camp; that there were three youths, whose relationship to the Maharaja was not much more remote than that of the two boys whose pictures had been received. I replied, that according to our customs, if the Maharaja publicly named one of the boys in the Deccan as heir, it would, I imagined, be considered as valid as an adoption; but if according to Hindoo usages, it would be preferable to make the adoption on the spot, I advised that it should by all means be done. Hindoo Rao said, that it was certainly preferable that the adoption should be made by the Maharaja before his death, that the adopted son might set fire to the funeral pile, and perform other ceremonies connected with the Maharaja's future state. He then gave me a description of the three youths here, said they were now in the palace, and should be brought to me, and it would then be decided which of them should be adopted.

3. During this conversation, messages were carried backwards and forwards from the interior apartment, where the Maharaja was, and it was at last announced that his Highness was ready to receive me. I proceeded to his apartment, accompanied by Hindoo Rao, Bapoo Rugnant Raojee, Khusgee Wallah, Atmaram Pundit, and perhaps there were one or two more: Captain Dyke also accompanied me. His Highness lay, or rather reclined on a couch, supported by pillows, and a number of female servants were in attendance around him; behind a purdah close to him, was the Baiza Bai, Rookma Bai, the Bala Bai, and their attendants. I was much shocked to observe the sad change that had taken place in the Maharaja's appearance: his arms and upper part of his body had become quite emaciated, his belly and lower extremities were greatly swelled. I went up to him, took his hand in mine and leant near him, so as to hear what he might say. He remained silent for some time, apparently unable to speak; at last, he said, in a distinct and audible voice, so as to be heard by every one present, and even, I believe, behind the purdah, "I wish you to do whatever you think proper" (*Istoom moonasib jano so kúró*). I replied, that every thing should be arranged according to his Highness's wishes, and I added some few words of consolation, and said, I trusted by the blessing of God he would yet recover. He appeared affected, and said, "By the sight of you and your friendship—" (*Ap ke dekhna se, ourap ke mohubbutze*), but he could not finish the sentence. A long pause now ensued, and I at last said, "Is there any thing else that your Highness would wish to say to me?" He replied, "I have a great deal to say to you," (*Bhoot tern se Bhanee hi*), but after waiting for a considerable time he could add no more. I then proposed to retire into another room for a short time, and to return when his Highness might revive a little, and be able to speak. This was agreed to by all present, the voice of the Baiza Bai suggesting that Dr. Panton should be sent for. I asked the Maharaja if it was his wish that

that that gentleman should be called, when his Highness made a faint sign of assent. Gwalior Succession,
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4. I have been thus particular in giving the expressions used by the Maharaja on this occasion, as they were probably the last words he uttered. I had not retired above an hour to an upper apartment, when the screams of females announced that the Maharaja's life had fled.

* * * * *

9. The scheme of adoption, it will be observed, was defeated by the Maharaja's dying so unexpectedly at last. Just as he expired, it was proposed to take one of the boys to the Maharaja, and to perform certain ceremonies, on the supposition of his still having life, by which the boy might have kindled the funeral pile. This was proposed to the Baiza Bai, but all the answer that could then be obtained from her was, "Why do you ask me? do as you think proper; I shall follow the Maharaja." Under these circumstances, it was resolved to await the arrival of the boys from the Deccan. So nearly had a stripling, picked up I may say in the streets, and with hardly decent clothes to cover him, become the sovereign of this state.

EXTRACT Bengal Secret Consultations; 20 April 1827.

(No. 5.)

EXTRACT Letter from Mr. Secretary *Stirling* to the Resident at Gwalior;
dated Camp in Purjore Valley, 29 March 1827.

THE Right honourable the Governor-general has learnt with much regret from your letters, dated the 21st and 22d instant, the death of the Maharaja Dowlut Rao Sindiah, and his Lordship is more especially concerned to find that that event has taken place without the formal appointment of any successor, either by adoption by a regularly executed will, or by any distinct declaration on his deathbed.

2. Lord Amherst will expect to learn, in the course of three or four days, from your subsequent despatches, many important and interesting facts and occurrences, which it is necessary to have before him, previous to his forming any satisfactory judgment regarding the actual state of affairs at Gwalior, and the measures which it is proper for the British Government to pursue at this juncture. His Lordship awaits with the utmost anxiety, precise information on the following points; viz.—In what form and under what titles the Baiza Bacc and Hindoo Rao propose to exercise the sovereign authority of the state; whether they contemplate an adoption; in what manner the public voice expresses itself at Gwalior, after the first feelings of respect and regret for the Maharaja's memory have passed away; how the principal chiefs, military commandants, and ministers appear to be disposed regarding the succession.

EXTRACT Bengal Secret Consultations; 28 April 1827.

(No. 2.)

EXTRACT Letter from the Resident at Gwalior, to Mr Secretary *Stirling*,
dated 7 April 1827.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo.

2. Although my letters to you, both public and private, since the death of the late Maharaja, will have put the Right honourable the Governor-general in possession of considerable information on the subjects adverted to in the 2d paragraph of your letter, yet I shall now detail more fully, for his Lordship's information, all that has as yet come to my knowledge on those subjects.

3. His Lordship will have perceived, that the Baiza Bacc has virtually assumed the sovereignty of this state, but professedly in the capacity of regent. It would appear, however, that it is intended her Highness should retain the powers of regent during her life, although it is proposed to adopt a son as the successor to the

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the late Maharaja. In this there appears to be some inconsistency, as it is natural to suppose that the adopted son will assume the reins of government as soon as he arrives at the years of discretion.

9. If there is any feeling here unconnected with private interest, it is the wish to see a son adopted, and the name of Sindia's sovereignty upheld in him. This feeling I believe to be particularly predominant among the Marhattas, who, from jealousy of the designs of the Baiza Bae and Hindoo Rao, I imagine, expect to see this object effected under the auspices of the British Government. I believe it also to be a general wish that the adoption should be performed according to the most regular form, in which case the boy would be put into the arms of the elder widow.

EXTRACT Bengal Secret Consultations; 1 June 1827.

(No. 4.)

EXTRACT Letter from Mr. Secretary *Stirling* to the Resident at Gwalior; dated Simla, 9 April 1827.

3. IT is now clear, from the tenor of your last reports, that the exercise of the sovereign authority in Sindia's dominions has virtually devolved on the Baiza Bae, who, as the Maharaja's favourite wife, has possession of the treasure and power of the state, as distinctly indicated by Sindiah in his conversation with yourself on the 27th November last, to be the proper person to manage affairs in the event of his dying without appointing an heir; as prominently brought forward by his Highness on the public occasion of his complimentary intercourse with the Governor-general at Agra; and as being the lady designated in our public treaties as the wife of Dowlut Rao Sindiah, for whom a provision of two lacs of rupees per annum was assigned, must be considered to possess the best title to govern the country during the existing interregnum. There is farther no symptom discoverable of any immediately impending struggle or competition for the succession to the musnud, and, in fact, no appearance of any regularly organised party possessing the power or inclination to contest the management of affairs with the Baiza Bae, although it is to be feared that the minds of men throughout the camp and country are in an anxious and unsettled state, and that discordant feelings and interests exist regarding the child to be adopted as the future prince, which may possibly lead hereafter to serious disturbances.

5. The Governor-general retains to the fullest extent the wish expressed in the former orders of Government, to avoid, as far as possible, the appearance of standing forward to regulate the Gwalior succession; the obligations which such a line of policy would involve, and the adoption of any measures calculated to entangle ourselves beyond the actual necessity of the case, in trouble and responsibility connected with the internal concerns of the Sindia state.

EXTRACT Bengal Secret Consultations; 29 June 1827.

(No. 2.)

From Resident at Gwalior to Mr. Secretary *Stirling*; dated Gwalior, 8 June 1827.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that the boys of the Sindiah family from the Deccan, five in number, reached this camp on the 29th ultimo. Before the arrival of those boys, the Baiza Bai appeared to have made up her mind to have the most eligible of them placed on the guddee; but after their arrival, she appears to have reverted to a scheme which she before had in view, and which is adverted to in my private letter to you of the 8th of April last; viz. to bring from the Deccan a boy related to herself, to marry him to the youngest of her grand-daughters, and place him on the guddee. The boy proposed for this purpose is a grandson of the late Wiswass Row, by the female line. His mother, who is dead, was the Baiza

Vide Article 7. of
the Treaty of 1805,
and the Supplemen-
tary Engagement.

Baiza Bai's first cousin. His father is Jathjee Row Patankar, whose daughter by the same mother is married to the Raja of Colapoor, with whom the boy in question lives, along with his sister.

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2. The plan of adopting this boy was agitated during the Maharaja's lifetime ; but his Highness was, I believe, decidedly averse to it. The Bai, however, then so far carried her point, that it was determined to send for this boy from the Deccan ; and as it was supposed, from the times of hostility, the Colapoor Raja was with the Bai's family, that he would not allow the boy to come, I was requested to make an application to the Bombay Government to have him sent. It did not, however, appear to me to be a case in which the Bombay Government could interfere, as the Colapoor Raja seemed to have a better right to the charge of the boy than any relation he had here. But I advised the durbar to apply to the father of the boy, who was his natural guardian, and should he be disposed to send his son here, and the Colapoor Raja opposed it, I might, I said, perhaps in that case make an application to the Bombay Government on the subject. I know durbar, but no farther application was made to me on the subject, though it was occasionally mentioned. The plan, however, has never been altogether laid aside, and the arrival of those boys of the Scindiah family seems to have renewed it in full force in the mind of the Baiza Baee.

Orig.

3. This scheme being, as I believe, contrary to the wishes of the late Maharaja, and inconsistent with Hindoo usage, has never been countenanced by me, nor do I believe there is a single respectable person in camp who would approve of such arrangement ; yet the Bai seemed determined to carry it through, in defiance of public opinion. Hindoo Row and Atmaram Pundit have, with the utmost difficulty, at last succeeded in persuading the Bai to give up this plan, and to decide on the adoption of one of the boys of the Scindiah family.

4. The boy whose nativity, the lines of whose hands, and other marks, point out as the most eligible for the sovereignty, is Moogut Row, the son of Pattoba, who, it will be observed from Major Fielding's letter to you of the 20th of October last, is one of those most nearly related to the late Maharaja ; indeed, from the genealogical table enclosed in that letter, Peerojee having no son, Moogut Row must be considered as in every respect the best entitled to succeed. The son of Kedarjee, however, stands in the same degree of relationship to the late Maharaja. Moogut Row is about 11 years of age ; and it is said to be, I believe, the chief objection to him with the Baiza Baee, who would have wished to place a much younger boy on the musnud. The 18th of this month has been pronounced by the astrologers to be a propitious day for that ceremony, which, unless some objections are raised by me, will, I believe, take place on that day.

5. From what I have stated, the Right honourable the Governor-general will not, I conceive, be disposed to object to the elevation of Moogut Row to the musnud of the late Maharaja. The only subject of doubt is, whether Baiza Bai or Roobema Bai should adopt the boy previously to his being placed on the musnud.

6. There was, and still is, a considerable party in this camp disposed to favour the claim of Rookma Bai to make the adoption ; but the object of that party was, not that Roobema should merely make the adoption, but that she should in consequence succeed to the regency during the minority, by which means they expected to bring themselves into power, of which they had no hopes under the regency of the Baiza Bai, who did not require their support. After the receipt of his Lordship's letter, recognising the Baiza Bai as regent, this party began to alter their tone very much, and Row Srinapully, who assured me that he was authorized by Roobema Bai to be her channel of communication with me, has lately declared, on the part of the Bai, that she has no ambition to be regent, or even to make the adoption, but is perfectly reconciled to any arrangement may think fit to adopt. It is proper, however, that I should also state, that an emissary from the Bai herself, or at least who gives himself out as such, and who has several times been with me, did not hold exactly the same language. He represented the Bai as equally ready to submit to our decision, but appealed to the Shasters in favour of her claim to make the adoption. I have reason, however, to believe that this person, whose name is Raja Ram Bow, has lately visited me, unauthorised by the Bai. Srinapully has informed me that Bookam Bai has heard of his visits, and declares that he has no authority from her, but is confederated with Patunkur in some scheme in which she is not concerned.

Orig.

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7. But, whatever may be the views and wishes of Rookma Bae, I consider the late Maharaja's declaration to me quite sufficient to exclude her from the regency, and as the only object of her making the adoption would be the attainment of that authority, I am of opinion that it will be preferable to allow the Baiza Bae to make the adoption. A regular adoption, indeed, cannot be made; but the father, Ratloba, will make over the boy, with certain ceremonies, to the Baiza Bai, and renounce his right in him, after which he will be placed on the musnud. To this arrangement I do not anticipate any opposition from any quarter; certainly none if it has the countenance and sanction of the British Government, which I propose to give it, unless I receive orders to the contrary.

* * * * *

8. I consider it extremely desirable that nothing should occur to prevent the ceremony of placing the boy on the musnud from taking place on the day I have mentioned, as another day which is considered auspicious will not arrive for many months afterwards. All here, high and low, with the exception of the Bai herself, and perhaps Hindoo Row, are most anxious that this ceremony should not be delayed. When the boys from the Deccan arrived in camp, and it became known that the Baiza Bai was averse to the adoption of any one of them, much discontent was manifested; and the principal bankers, who do not consider matters secure here until, show their alarm by discontinuing their business. These circumstances probably had the principal effect in making the Bai give her assent to the elevation of Moogut Row.

Orig.

I have, &c.
(signed) J. Stewart,
Resident.

EXTRACT Bengal Secret Consultations; 6 July 1827.

(No. 2.)

From the Resident at Gwalior to Mr. Secretary *Stirling*; dated Gwalior,
16 June 1827.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that on the 14th instant, the five boys of the Scindiah family, lately arrived from the Deccan, were sent to the residency, apparently with the view to ascertain which of them I thought the most eligible to succeed to the late Maharaja; but all circumstances are so decidedly in favour of Moogut Row, that the reference to me can only be considered as complimentary. One of the boys is older than Moogut Row, and the three others, younger, but they are all much more remotely related to the late Maharaja, and in point of personal appearance and intelligence, Moogut Row has also the advantage of them. He is about 11 years of age, rather short for that age, and his complexion dark, but he is well made, and has an intelligent expression of countenance. He can read and write a little, and ride on horseback; in these qualifications also he has the advantage of all the other boys. The astrologers consider his nativity, and the signs by which they affect to penetrate into futurity, to be also most favourable, so that in every respect none of the others come in competition with him.

2. The only boy whose claim can at all be considered as coming in competition with that of Moogut Row, is the son of Kedajee Sindiah, whom I have not seen. But to him there are two serious objections in the eyes of the Baiza Bai. The first is, that he is older than Moogut Row; and the second is, that he is married. The latter objection is of the greater force, as it is the Bai's intention to marry the successor to the Maharaja to her youngest grand-daughter.

3. The circumstance of these boys having been sent to the residency, gave, I believe, almost universal satisfaction throughout the Mahratta Camp, as it was considered to be a certain prelude to one of them being placed on the musnud. For the same reason the Baiza Bai is said to have been overwhelmed with grief on the occasion. Atmaram Pundit, who accompanied the boys, informed me that her Highness, conceiving that the introduction of the boys to me must be followed by the adoption, only assented to it on two conditions; first, that the boy selected should be married to her youngest grand-daughter, either before or after he is placed on the musnud; and, secondly, after that takes place, that she herself

herself should be allowed to go on a pilgrimage to Benares. In reply, I said, that if the marriage could take place according to Hindoo usage, the British Government could not possibly have any objection to it. Neither could I foresee any objections to her Highness proceeding on a pilgrimage, provided she made some arrangement for the regency during her absence.

4. The marriage, I believe, her Highness seriously contemplates with the view of attaching the future sovereign more closely to herself. The proposal to go on a pilgrimage, I consider to be merely an expression of her grief and dissatisfaction at an arrangement which she finds herself, in some measure, under the necessity of adopting.

5. I suppose I shall to-day learn her Highness's final resolution with regard to placing the boy on the musnud on Monday next, and I confess I feel anxious that the ceremony may not be postponed. It is the general and anxious wish of all here, with the exception of the Bai herself, and perhaps one or two of her secret advisers; Hindoo Row is quite sensible of the propriety and necessity of the measure, and has urged it on the Bai so earnestly, as to occasion a considerable degree of estrangement between them of late.

6. The immediate adoption of an heir is not, I conceive, a matter of much consequence to the British Government, further than that it would tend to quiet men's minds here, and put an end to a good deal of intrigue. I have not, therefore, pressed it very urgently with the Bai. But I suspect that those who have urged it with her Highness, have led her to suppose that it was a point on which the British Government would not admit of much procrastination.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Stewart*, Resident.

(No. 4.)

EXTRACT Letter from the Resident at Gwalior to Mr. Secretary *Stirling*; dated Gwalior, 19 June 1827.

I HAVE now the satisfaction to report to you, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, that the boy Moogut Row was married to the youngest grand-daughter of the late Maharaja, on Sunday, and yesterday seated on the musnud.

2. My letters to your address of the 8th and 16th instant will have prepared his Lordship for these events. On Saturday evening, the whole of the chiefs and ministers of this government were assembled at the durbar, when the Baiza Bai's intention to adopt Moogut Row and place him on the musnud, was formally announced, and the opinion of the assembly on the subject was asked. Not a dissenting voice was raised on the occasion; all agreed to and applauded the measure. The Shasterees were consulted as to the propriety of uniting Moogut Row in marriage to the youngest grand-daughter of the late Maharaja. The Shasterees having declared the union legal, and that it might take place either before or after Moogut Row was placed on the musnud, it was determined that the marriage should be solemnized immediately. That ceremony having accordingly been performed on Sunday, I was invited to assist at the ceremony of Moogut Row's installation yesterday.

3. The auspicious hour for the ceremony was between nine and ten o'clock in the forenoon, but I determined to pass the whole day at the palace, not from the apprehension of any disturbance on the occasion, but merely to avoid exposure to the excessive heat of the weather at this season. I accordingly proceeded thither, accompanied by the gentlemen of the residency, at day-light in the morning. The young Maharaja elect, with his bride, were at this time passing in procession, seated together on the same elephant, through a part of the camp. After having paid their devotions together at a particular temple, they returned to the palace, when the ceremony, both of adoption and marriage, seem to have been completed by the Baiza Bai's taking the boy and her grand-daughter in her arms, and placing one on each knee. The father of Moogut Row had previously made over the boy to the Baiza Bai, and renounced all right and claim to him by the ceremony of pouring water from his own hand into that of the Bai; Rookma Bai was also present at these ceremonies.

Gwalior Succession,
1826, 1827.

4. In the meantime all the chiefs, ministers, bankers, &c., in camp, were assembled in durbar, and when the auspicious moment arrived, Hindoo Row brought out the boy from the interior apartments, and handing him to me, requested that I would place him on the musnud, which I accordingly did, and a general discharge of artillery and musketry announced the event to all the camp.

5. Immediately after I had seated Moogut Row on the musnud, I presented him, in the name of the Governor-general, with a very rich khillaut, composed of the usual articles presented to the late Maharaja, together with one to the young bride. After which, keeshtees were presented on the part of the Bala Bai, also Seenaputtee, and by Rooguat Row, on the part of the Raja of Dhar, nuzzurs, jewellery and cloths; and the other chiefs and bankers, &c., continued to be presented to the young Maharaja till about 12 o'clock, when, being completely exhausted by the previous ceremonies of the morning, it was necessary to allow him to retire to rest. Long before mid-day I had been obliged, from the overpowering heat, to quit the durbar, and retire to another room.

8. I must not omit to mention that her Highness intimated her intention, which I had before learnt, of giving a new name to Moogut Row; that of Junkojee Row Sindiah is the name which her Highness had fixed on, being that of the chief of the Sindiah family who was slain at the battle of Paniput. The address of the young Maharaja will therefore be, "Maharaja Ali Jah Junkojee Row Sindiah Bahader."

EXTRACT Bengal Secret Consultations; 17 August 1827.

(No. 21.)

EXTRACT Letter from Mr. Secretary *Stirling* to the Resident at Gwalior; dated Meerut, 16 July 1827.

Para. 4. THE Governor-general has perused your despatch of the 19th ultimo with much interest. It is highly gratifying to his Lordship to find both that her Highness the Bai was induced to adopt a resolution which appears to have been as well received by all parties at Gwalior as the elevation of Moogut Row to the musnud, after uniting him in marriage to the youngest grand-daughter of herself and the late Maharaja, and that the ceremonies connected with those important events passed off in a favourable and auspicious manner. His Lordship will be prepared to recognize the accession of the young prince under the guardianship and regency of the Bai, when apprised in a letter from her Highness of the late occurrences at the court of Gwalior.

EXTRACT Bengal Secret Consultations; 28 September 1827.

No. 1.

(No. 43.)

EXTRACT Letter from the Resident at Gwalior to Mr. Secretary *Stirling*; dated 27 July 1827.

I do myself the honour to transmit a khurceta to the address of the Right honourable the Governor-general from her Highness the Baiza Bai.

No. 2.

(No. 44.)

From Her Highness the Baiza Bai.

A. C.

"Your Lordship's consolatory letter, expressing your sorrow and condolence on the occasion of the Maharaja Dowlut Rao Scindiah's demise, and recommending me, as the present head of the family of the deceased, to bear up against this great misfortune, and exert myself in settling and administering the affairs of the government, with other friendly and judicious advice, arrived at a moment

moment when I was overwhelmed with grief, and imparted hope and comfort to my afflicted heart. Gwalior Succession,
1826, 1827.

“The state of despair and affliction into which the above ever-to-be-lamented event has plunged the whole of this court, is not to be described by words. I can readily believe that your Lordship, who was the most sincere and disinterested friend of him we mourn, will have participated in the general grief. For my own part, oppressed and weighed down by sorrow, I had resolved entirely to withdraw myself from the cares and concerns of this perishable world, when the arrival of your Lordship’s letter, and the excellent counsel offered to me by my worthy friend, Major Stewart, in the spirit of your Lordship’s communication, induced me to receive consolation, and become more composed.

“The late Maharaja was always sincerely anxious to cultivate and improve the relations of amity and good understanding between the two states, and even regarded your Lordship and Major Stewart as his best and real friends. I cannot sufficiently express my sense of the manner in which your Lordship has discharged the duties and obligations arising out of the above relations, in providing for the safety, stability and integrity of this principality; your Lordship has, indeed, through the medium of the Resident, fulfilled the dying wishes and injunctions of the Maharaja in a manner which is the theme of admiration of the whole world, and leaves nothing to be desired.

“An august ceremony has now been celebrated, which has restored life and gladness to the drooping spirits of the chiefs and subjects of this state. On the 21st Zee Cadeh, the light of my eyes, Jankojee Rao Scindia, was married to my beloved child, Beja Beba, and on the 22d, at 10 o’clock, I adopted the former and excellent qualities of Major Stewart. His conversation and good advice have greatly rejoiced and comforted my own mind; and it is certainly the case that the presence of so accomplished and trustworthy an officer at this critical period has contributed most materially to promote and secure the interests of this state, and to give satisfaction to all parties, both high and low. Orig.

“I need not state how anxious I feel that your Lordship should continue to manifest the same friendship towards this state, and the same cordial and disinterested regard for its welfare and the prosperity of its affairs, as have distinguished your late acts and measures.

“Hoping that the practice of correspondence will be continued, and that I shall hear frequently of your Lordship’s health, I conclude with referring to Major Stewart for a knowledge of my wishes and sentiments in detail on various matters.”

(True translation.)

(signed) *A. Stirling,*
Persian Secretary, &c.

No. 5.

To her Highness the Baiza Bae; dated 31 August 1827.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Highness’s letter (recapitulate contents).

It is very satisfactory to me to find that your Highness has learned to contemplate the late melancholy event with resignation and composure, and that you are now enabled to give your attention to the administration of affairs and the conduct of the business of government.

Your letter announces also the important intelligence of the adoption by your Highness of an heir to the dominions of the house of Scindia, and his elevation to the musnud, after being united in marriage to the youngest grand-daughter of the late Maharaja and yourself; I beg to offer my sincere and cordial congratulations on the above auspicious and interesting events, which have diffused joy through all ranks in Gwalior, and are viewed with satisfaction by every true friend of the state. May the Almighty long preserve your Highness in health and prosperity, and render fruitful and flourishing those tender plants which are so justly the objects of your maternal care and solicitude.

Gwalior Succession,
1826, 1827.

Allow me, in conclusion, to assure your Highness that it is your anxious wish to witness the stability and prosperity of affairs at the court of Gwalior, and to cultivate and improve the relations of harmony and friendship between the two states, in the spirit of subsisting engagements.

(A true copy.)

(signed) *A. Stirling,*
Persian Secretary, &c.

No. 4.

(No. 48.)

EXTRACT Letter from Mr. Secretary *Stirling* to the Resident at Gwalior ; dated Meirzapoor, 31 August 1827.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch dated 27th ultimo, forwarding a khurreeta from her Highness the Baiza Bae, and to transmit to you the Governor-general's reply thereto, containing his Lordship's congratulations on the occasion of the accession of Maharaja Rao Scindia to the musnud, and his marriage with the youngest grand-daughter of the late Maharaja.

Gwalior Succession,
1836-1843.

Gwalior Succession, 1836-1843.

EXTRACT Political Letter from the Government of India at Fort William ; dated 25 July 1836, No. 20.

Para. 171. ON the receipt of a letter from the Resident describing the state of health of Maharaja Junkojee Rao Scindiah, and soliciting instructions as to the question of succession should his Highness die childless; we stated our opinion that it would be in every respect desirable that the Maharaja should adopt a son during his lifetime to succeed him in the event of his dying without issue, and that he should nominate such individuals as he might deem deserving of that high trust, to administer the affairs of the state, and to act as guardians to the infant should his Highness depart this life while his adopted son was yet in his minority.

172. Reposing the fullest reliance on the Resident's judgment and discretion as to the mode of doing so, we authorized him to urge this subject on the consideration of the Maharaja, placing in the strongest light the evils of a disputed succession, as affecting both the welfare of the country and the interests of the house of Sindiah.

173. The Resident was, however, desired to abstain from importunity, should he find his Highness averse to act upon his suggestion ; in that case matters must be allowed to take their course, and in the event of his Highness's death without issue of his body or by adoption, Major Sutherland was authorised, should he deem that course advisable, without incurring the delay of a previous reference, to acknowledge the right of the Maharaja's widow to make an adoption from among the members of the Sindiah family, and to recommend the measure to her as well as to the chief authorities at Gwalior ; the Resident was further authorized to recognise the widow as the regent of the state during the minority of the adopted son, should this arrangement be consonant with the general wish.

EXTRACT Political Letter from the Government of India at Fort William ; dated 26 September 1836.

Para. 140. THIS correspondence has reference to the question noticed in the 171st and subsequent paragraphs of our last general letter relative to the Gwalior succession, in the event of the present Maharaja dying childless.

141. It

141. It appears from the Resident's present communication that the Maharaja's health was so far restored as to remove any immediate apprehension of the events with reference to which our instructions of the 21st December 1835 were conveyed to Major Sutherland.

Gwalior Succession,
1836-1843.

EXTRACT Political Letter from India; dated 5 July (No. 39) 1841.

93. WITH reference to the infirm state of Junkajee Row Scindiah's health, the British representative at the court of Gwalior having again submitted for our consideration the question regarding the succession to that principality, in the event of the death of the present Maharaja without male issue, we replied as follows:

P. 1841, Cons.
8 March, Nos. 42
and 43.

94. In case of the occurrence of the anticipated event under the circumstance supposed, or the delegation of authority to the Maharaja's widow to adopt a son, the proper line of proceeding appeared to us to be, that the Resident should make known the willingness of the British Government to recognize an adoption from the family of Scindiah, which might be made by his widow, with the consent of the leading chiefs of the durbar, the extreme youth of the Maharaja's wife seeming to render necessary this reference to the assent of those who might be supposed on such an emergency to be her most competent advisers.

95. It was signified to Lieutenant-colonel Spiers that we had little doubt that by the exercise of his friendly and disinterested influence, the choice of the parties for a successor to the sovereignty would be well directed, and that the mother and the heir adopted upon such a choice would remain secure from serious molestation.

96. It was not deemed requisite to anticipate a necessity for more active support from the government of India, or to discuss the conditions upon which such support might be requested and given. The Resident, however, was directed to bear in mind the desirableness of improving any opportunity which might furnish itself, so as to obtain for the British political officers on the spot a more direct control than had hitherto been exercised over the administration of the distant districts of the Gwalior state in Malwa, and other quarters, with a view to the due preservation of general tranquillity in those parts.

Secret Department, Camp Kootub, 20 February (No. 13) 1843.

To the Honourable the Secret Committee of the Honourable the Court of Directors.

Honourable Sirs,

I HAVE to report for your information, the death on the 7th instant of Maharaja Junkojee Rao Scindiah, and the accession of Bhageemut Rao, the nearest in blood to the deceased, and who had been adopted by his widow to the vacant guddee of the Gwalior state, under the title of Maharaja Ali Jah, Jyagee Rao Scindiah.

2. In August last, the Resident at Gwalior reported the precarious state of the Maharaja's health, and suggested that no time should be lost in acquainting him with any modification which I might desire to make, in the instructions of the 8th March 1841, with which he had been furnished for his guidance in the event of his Highness's demise without male issue.

3. I caused Lieutenant-colonel Spiers to be informed in reply, that I did not deem it expedient, under existing circumstances, to vary those instructions; but considering the very infirm state of Scindiah's health, I desired that he would make inquiry, and report respecting the character, condition and circumstances of the four boys mentioned in the "Gwalior Diary," as having been spoken of at the meeting of the officers and chiefs on the 22d August, as capable of being elected to the guddee.

To Resident at
Gwalior, dated
14 September.

To Resident,
Gwalior, dated
14 September.

4. The Resident was cautioned against making known to the ministers or chiefs at the court the line of conduct which, under his instructions, he would pursue in the event of Scindiah's demise without male issue, or any adoption having taken place, or against taking any step which might tend to compel an adherence, under changed circumstances, to the line of conduct which had been prescribed for him. And he was further directed to keep me fully informed of all the proceedings of the officers and chiefs connected with the subject of an adoption.

5. In his letters referred to in the margin, the Resident, Lieutenant-colonel Spiers, stated the views and feelings of the Gwalior chiefs in respect to the succession, and forwarded a genealogical table of the Scindiah family, from which it appeared that Bhagunt Rao, the son of Humunt Rao, usually called Babajee Scindiah, who had been dead for some time, was nearest in blood to the reigning Maharaja, and the Resident was informed that that was my opinion.

6. In the Resident's letter of the 24th August last, Bhageerut Rao is represented as "a fine boy, of about eight years of age, good looking, and of a fair complexion. He is the only male of his family, and his mother and himself are all that now belong to it; they are considered respectable in their line of life."

7. On the 7th instant the Resident reported, by express, the demise on that day of Maharaja Junkojee Rao Scindiah.

8. In acknowledging Lieutenant-colonel Spiers' letter, he was informed that my camp would move from Delhie on the 22d instant, as originally intended; but that the march would be directed to Agra *via* Muttra, instead of to Meerut, which was the destination of my camp before the receipt of this intelligence.

9. On the 8th instant, Lieutenant-colonel Spiers reported that the boy Bhageerut Rao, the nearest in blood to the family of the late Maharaja, had, with the concurrence of the chiefs, been adopted by his widow, the Tara Ranee, as her son, and successor to the late Maharaja.

10. Copies of the notification of the demise of Maharaja Junkojee Rao Scindia, and the adoption of Bhageerut Rao, which I caused to be published, will be found as per margin.

11. I instructed the Resident to express to the durbar the deep regret I had experienced on the occasion of the demise of the late faithful friend of the British Government.

12. At the same time it was added, that it was the cause of great satisfaction to me, that the Tana Ranee had, with the apparently general concurrence of the chiefs and people, adopted the boy whom I had myself deemed to be nearest in blood to the late Maharaja; and that I also derived great satisfaction from the preservation of tranquillity, which I trusted would be maintained. It was observed, that the adoption of a boy too young to administer the government necessarily created anxiety as to the selection of the ministers by whom the government was to be carried on, and that I awaited with much interest the communication which I expected shortly to receive from the Resident on this point.

13. For a full knowledge of the proceedings at Gwalior subsequently to the death of the late Maharaja, and of my views and sentiments in regard to the appointing of a regent during the Maharaja's minority, I beg to refer your honourable Committee to the correspondence noted in the margin.

14. It will be seen that the present Maharaja was proclaimed under the style and titles of "Maharaja Ali Jah, Jyajee Rao Scindiah," on the 12th instant. A copy of the general order which I issued, notifying his Highness's accession to the Gwalior musnund, forms a number in the packet.

15. It was at first my intention to have, myself, invested the young Rajah, at Agra, to which place I invited him to repair. Reasonable objections were, however, urged by the durbar to this arrangement, and I therefore authorized the Resident to confer upon his Highness the usual khillut on the day of his being placed upon the guddee; and I further directed him to take the Maharaja's hand, and perform that ceremony himself, as the durbar appeared to desire; thereby affording the most public proof of my confirmation of the Maharaja's adoption, and giving a pledge of the friendship and support of the British Government.

16. The Resident has been particularly desired to express to the Ranee and the durbar the great satisfaction with which I have viewed every step hitherto taken

From Resident,
Gwalior, dated
7 February.

To Resident,
Gwalior, dated
9 February.

From the Resident
at Gwalior, dated
8 February.

To Resident,
Gwalior, dated
10 February.

From Resident,
Gwalior, dated
9 February;
from Ditto, dated
11 February;
to ditto, dated
13 February.

To Resident,
Gwalior, dated
18 February.

taken by them since the death of the late Maharaja, and my earnest hope that their united counsels may, after sufficient deliberation, place the government, during the Maharaja's minority, in hands which may have strength to preserve the tranquillity of the country, and increase its prosperity.

Gwalior Succession,
1836-1843.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Ellenborough.*

Camp, Kootub, 20 February.

EXTRACT India Political Consultations; 21 December 1835.

(No. 33 A.)

From the Resident at Gwalior to *W. H. Macnaghten*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India; dated 7 November 1835.

Sir,

MAHARAJA Jenkojee Row Sindia has just recovered from an illness of so serious a nature, that apprehensions were for a day or two entertained for life, and much anxiety seemed to prevail; his Highness, although only in his twentieth year, is of so delicate a constitution, that it is feared he may not live long. When I arrived here in February last, Maharaja was seriously ill, and could not go through the ceremony of receiving me for many days; he seemed, however

Sic orig.

to recover and to continue till the end of July, when his Highness was again seized with an illness, from the effects of which I do not think that he has ever entirely recovered. I saw the Maharaja about ten days ago, when he was evidently weak and ill, and a few days after this, serious illness commenced. He was attended on the two former occasions by Dr. Hope, the residency surgeon, who considers that his Highness is both scrofulous and consumptive, and that his is not likely to be a long life; that gentleman has not been called in on the present occasion, and it is therefore impossible to say what the nature of the illness is.

2. I believe that as this constitutional weakness has increased, the Maharaja's powers of body and of mind have yielded to it, until hardly any remnant is left of those traits* of character which he exhibited whilst Colonel Stewart was Resident here, and during the visit of the Governor-general; I understand that the Maharaja's habits are temperate and moderate in every respect, and that he is as free from evils of this description as he is gentle and benevolent in his nature.

**Sic orig.*—traits?

3. Under these circumstances, it is very desirable that I should be in possession of the sentiments and instructions of the honourable the Governor-general of India in Council of the important question of a successor to this principality, for the Maharaja has no offspring.

4. His only wife, the Tara Bae, is the daughter of Jeswunt Rao Goopowah, a person of no note in the Deckan, who was expelled from Gwalior a short time ago by the Mama Sahib, on a charge of having put some menial servant of his own to death, but in reality, I believe to get rid of Jeswunt Rao, lest he should, through his daughter's means, gain an influence over the Maharaja.

5. In case of his Highness's death, the Tara Bae would, I conclude, as in the instance of the widows of the last two sovereigns Maharaja Scindiah and Dowlut Rao, have the privilege of adopting, from amongst the members of the Scindiah family, an heir to the throne, if, indeed, which is probable, the Bae did not declare herself pregnant; and the only question would then seem to be whether the Tara Bae, her father, or any of the members of their family, the Gorporeahs, would have weight and influence to hold in their own hands the administration of affairs during a long minority. It might naturally be expected that some members of the Scindiahs family most nearly connected with the adopted son would rise up against them, and we must be prepared for the same scenes which occurred here during the regency of the Bajah Bae, and which must generally occur everywhere, whether under the regency of the natural mother or the mother of the minor prince through adoption. There is no question, I think, that the power and influence of the maternal uncle, the Mama Sahib, which is now paramount here, would terminate with the life of his nephew the Maharaja; he has, of course, no claim to govern, and must be obnoxious to his Highness's wife and father-in-law,

Gwalior Succession,
1836-1843.

from the part he has taken against them; the Maharaja's own father before adoption (as he has been called) has never come forward in public affairs since I have been here, and, although a member of the Scindiah family, might be expected to quit Gwalior on the death of his son, unless, indeed, he were won over to join the Baee's party or the Scindiah party which might rise up against them.

6. There is no person here who, either from his relationship to the Maharaja or from his position and influence in the state, could have the least pretension to put himself forward as regent; nor is there in this, as in the Rajpoot states, any hereditary nobility to whom we could look for the establishment of a council of regency, or in any way take the administration of affairs into their own hands; the two principal persons, so far as I see, are Sunabajee Angriah and Ram Rao Phalkeah, the former a relation of the lady by whom Dowlut Rao Scindiah was adopted, the latter, a commander of horse and a jageerdar of * altogether unconnected with the Scindiah family.

* *Orig. illegible.*

Sic Orig.

7. From our position in this country, it is of course impossible that under such circumstances escape from taking some part in the affairs of this state on the death of the Maharaja.

8. The most natural course, it appears to me, would be at once to acknowledge the right of the widow to adopt, from among the members of the Scindiah family, an heir to the throne, and to recommend this measure to her and the chief authorities here, for the throne could not remain vacant, and we do not, I believe, consider that, under such circumstances principalities can ever lapse to us. This measure would of course involve the necessity of saving the widow and the adopted heir, or the latter at least, from all pressure from without, from the encroachment of foreign states, and from any contemplated usurpation on the part of the Baiza Baee or other pretender to power here.

9. But it would not necessarily involve our interference in the internal administration of this country, and our policy then, as now, would be, I conclude, to stand aloof as far as possible from all interference in its affairs; if it eventually proved that neither the regent nor mother, nor those of her family, nor of the family of the Infant Raja, could govern the country; and if they failed in the performance of their obligations to us or to other states, and called for our assistance, then the extent to which it should be given, or the mode of exercising interference, would become questions for consideration, and we could either sustain the administration which we found in power, interposing our authority to such extent as seemed necessary to save the people from its oppression, or take the direction of affairs into our own hands as the guardians of the foreign prince, and the interests of his people during his minority; but on these points it would be very satisfactory to me to have the instructions of the honourable the Governor-general of India in Council.

I have, &c.

Gwalior Residency, 7 November 1835.

(signed) *J. Sutherland.*

(No. 33 B.)

To the Resident at Gwalior.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Honourable the Governor-general in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 7th instant, describing the state of health of Maharaja Junkojee Rao Scindiah, and soliciting the instructions as to the question of succession, should his Highness die childless.

2. In reply, I am directed to acquaint you, that in the opinion of the Governor-general in Council, it would be in every respect desirable that the Maharaja should adopt a son during his lifetime to succeed him, in the event of his dying without issue; and that he should nominate such individuals as he may deem deserving of that high trust to administer the affairs of the state, and to act as guardians to the assent,* should his Highness depart this life while his adopted son is yet in his minority.

* *Sic orig.*

3. The Governor-general in Council, having the fullest reliance on your judgment and discretion as to the mode of doing so, authorizes you to urge this subject on the consideration of the Maharaja. The evils of a disputed succession, both as they affect the welfare of the country and the interests of the house of Scindiah, will not fail of being placed by you in the strongest light.

4. You

4. You will not, of course, use importunity should you find his Highness evade, and act upon your suggestions. In that case, matters must be allowed to take their course. And in the event of his Highness's death without issue of his body or by adoption, you are authorized, should you deem this course advisable, without incurring the delay of a previous reference, to acknowledge the right of his widow to make an adoption from among the members of the Scindiah family, and to recommend the measure to her and to the chief authorities at Gwalior; and you are further authorized to recognize the widow as the regent of the state during the minority of the adopted son, should this arrangement be consonant with the general wish.

Gwalior Succession,
1836-1843.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. H. Macnaghten,*

Fort William, 21 December.

Secretary to Government.

EXTRACT Fort William Political Consultations; 18 January 1836.

(No. 30.)

From the Resident at Gwalior to *W. H. Macnaghten*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India; dated 31 December 1835.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to receive your letter in the Secret Department, dated 21st instant.

2. I am happy to report, for the information of the Honourable the Governor-general of India in Council, that when I left Gwalior on the 20th instant, the Maharaja's recovery, although it has been slow, was so far advanced as to remove all anxiety about his life. Those defects of constitution to which I have already adverted must, of course, continue, and they necessarily lead to the apprehension that his Highness's life, and the present satisfactory form of administration in the Gwalior's territories, may be of short duration.

3. From the period that the Maharaja was taken seriously ill until he had comparatively recovered, I had not an audience with his Highness; but I did not fail to impress on the minds of Seevajee Punt Tatea and Dadjee Khasgeewalla, the persons who transact business with me on the part of the durbar, the importance to the future tranquillity of the state, of his Highness's naming, before he expired, a person from among the members of the Scindiah's family as his successor. Both allowed that unless this were done, the form of adoption by the widow would not be complete; but both maintained that it would be sufficient, and declared that it were vain to expect that the Maharaja, at his time of life, should name a child for adoption.

4. I have on several occasions, both to those persons, to the "Mama Sahib," and to the Maharaja himself, expressed my anxiety on the subject of a successor to the Gwalior principality, and have lamented with them the embarrassments into which the British Government is brought, and the danger to the tranquillity of the country, through the failure of issue in almost all the Maratta sovereign houses. The Maharaja has, however, resisted all the persuasion that has been used to induce him to contract a second marriage. The Tara Bace has, I am told, hardly more than reached years of puberty, and there is every reason to hope for issue from that marriage.

5. I confess that I consider that it would be hopeless to expect to persuade, at present, his Highness to name a child for adoption; but I shall not lose sight of the instructions of the Honourable the Governor-general of India in Council on this head, nor fail to urge the matter on his Highness, in case of a renewal of such illness as may be considered to endanger his life, as well as the importance of naming a council of regency during the minority. The adoption of a child would, in case of future issue, lead, it appears to me, to greater embarrassment than even the death of the Maharaja without the adoption. There is at present no legitimate heir to the Gwalior principality, nor any member of the Scindiah

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family who could, so far as I understand, set up any pretension to the throne; and if his Highness were to die to-morrow, the adoption could be accomplished, and the widow recognized as regent of the state during the minority, I think, without the slightest apprehension of the general tranquillity being endangered, or of any other disturbances than those which might arise in a struggle for place and power amongst men with arms in their hands. These are matters with which, it appears to me, we need have little concern; and the troubled spirits and the bad blood, which must exist everywhere, would not, perhaps, be disposed of in a less objectionable manner than in a contest of this kind.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Sutherland*, Resident.

Gwalior Residency,
Agra, 31 December 1835.

Ordered. That the following be written to Captain Sutherland.

(No. 31.)

From the Secretary to the Government of India, to Captain *J. Sutherland*,
Resident at Gwalior; dated 18 January 1836.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Honourable the Governor-general of India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 31st ultimo, stating that the Maharaja is so much recovered, that there is no longer any apprehension that his life is in danger.

2. In reply, I am desired to acquaint you, that the contents of the despatch now acknowledged are satisfactory, the Maharaja's health appearing to be so much restored as to prevent any immediate apprehension of the event, with reference to which the former instructions of Government were conveyed to you.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. H. Macnaghten*,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Fort William, 18 January 1836.

EXTRACT India Political Consultations; 8 March 1841.

(No. 42.)

EXTRACT Letter from Resident at Gwalior to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to Government of India; dated 25 February 1841.

THE serious and continued attacks of illness with which the Maharaja, Jenkajee Rao Scindiah, has of late been afflicted, from one of which he is at present slowly recovering, and the injury which his constitution must have received from these and former attacks of sickness, have induced me to bring the subject again to the attention of the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council, with the view to my being honoured with any additional or modified orders in regard to the succession to this principality, to those contained in Mr. Secretary's Macnaghten's letter of the 21st December 1835.

I have had no opportunity of ascertaining what the Maharaja's original malady was. The last attack common report attributed to various causes; he, however, about the middle of last month, was supposed to have got nearly quite rid of it, and was just recovering, but towards the end of that month he had frequent attacks

attacks of melancholy, arising, I have been informed, from weakness and from apprehensions of a return of his former illness, which somewhat alarmed the native physicians; these attacks, however, have left him for the last eight or ten days.

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3. I paid the Maharaja a visit on Saturday last, with the gentlemen of the residency, when he appeared to be very weak and much reduced; he informed me that he felt himself much better, and spoke to me with considerable confidence and self-possession.

4. The Maharaja is still childless, his only wife, a girl of about seven years of age, is the daughter of a person named Jeswunt Rao Goorparrah, of no note or influence, either here or in his own country, the Dukhun.

5. The present wife of the Maharaja is the youngest sister of the consort of 1835, who died on the 6th March 1838.

6. Under the circumstances of his illness, which I have above stated, I have considered it would be injudicious in me, at present, to introduce the highly important subject of a successor to the Maharaja, either by adoption or selection from any of his relations of the house of Scindiah, but I may have an opportunity hereafter of doing so, which I shall not fail to avail myself of.

11. In soliciting the attention of the Government of India to the highly important question of the succession to this Government, in the event of the death of the present Maharaja without male issue, my own opinions on the subject may be effected. I am not prepared to offer any other than that (*i. e.* the adoption of a son from the family of the Scindiah by the widow of the Maharaja) submitted by Lieutenant-colonel Sutherland, in his letter of the 7th November 1835, and approved of by Government in Mr. Secretary Macnaghten's letter of the 21st December of that year; as I am of opinion that it is likely to prove the most popular, and though not quite consonant to strict Hindoo law, yet it is to usage, in such extreme cases, both as regards states and individuals.

12. In the event of the present widow being considered of too tender an age to make such a selection, I am aware of no other course being left to Government than to declare the next in succession of the family of the Scindiah to be the heir to the present principality; but the discovery of such a person would necessarily occupy much time, as the late Maharaja Dowlut Rao Scindiah, himself, declared to Major Stewart, the then Resident, that he had none but very distant relations, and of them he knew nothing; it might therefore be considered as a somewhat dangerous experiment to have the throne vacant, under the present administration, for an indefinite period, or until the legal heir could be discovered.

13. I would therefore beg to suggest that, if not contrary to the general feeling of the influential persons of the durbar, that I should be authorized, in the event of the death of the Maharaja without male issue, to recommend to his widow the adoption above alluded to from the family of Scindiah.

(No. 43.)

EXTRACT Letter from the Secretary to the Government of India to the Resident at Gwalior; dated 8 March (No. 634) 1841.

IN reply to your despatch of the 25th of February, I am directed by the Governor-general of India in Council to state that, in the event of the demise of the Maharaja Jenkojee Scindiah without male issue, or the delegation of authority to his widow to adopt a son, it would appear the proper course that you should make known the willingness of the British Government to recognize an adoption from the family of Scindiah, which may be made by his widow, with the consent of the leading chiefs of the durbar. The extreme youth of the Maharaja's wife seems to render necessary for the present this reference to the assent of those who may be supposed, on such an emergency, to be her most competent advisers.

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2. His Lordship in Council has little doubt, that by the exercise of your friendly and disinterested influence, the choice of the parties for a successor to the sovereignty will be well-directed, and that the mother and the heir adopted upon such a choice will remain secure from serious molestation.

EXTRACT Letter from the Resident at Gwalior to the Secretary to the Government of India ; dated Gwalior Residency, 22 August 1842.

FROM all I have been able to learn of the Maharaja's health, I would earnestly beg leave to respectfully suggest, that should the Governor-general wish to alter or add to the instructions of Government conveyed to me in your letter of the 8th March 1841, in regard to the succession to this state, in the event of the demise of the present Maharaja, that no time should be lost in communicating his orders to me on that subject.

I believe that the Maharaja is not considered in immediate danger, and that he has youth in his favour ; but his constitution has been so much shaken by former frequent attacks of illness, that it appears to me to be desirable to be prepared, as far as possible, for whatever may happen to him on the present occasion.

The state of parties and affairs here appear to me much the same at present as they were described by me in my letter of the 25th February 1841, when writing on the same subject as that on which I have now addressed you.

I shall merely add that the Maharajah is still childless, and has made no adoption or provision for a successor.

EXTRACT Letter from the Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-General, to the Resident at Gwalior ; dated Simla, 14 September 1842.

THE Governor-general having to-day been made acquainted with the instructions addressed to you by the Governor-general in Council last year, with respect to the course to be pursued by you in the event of the demise of Scindiah without male issue, does not deem it expedient, under present circumstances, to vary those instructions ; but considering the very infirm state of Scindiah's health, his Lordship desires that you will forthwith make inquiry, and report respecting the characters and condition and circumstances of all the four boys mentioned in the "Gwalior Diary" as having been spoken of at the meeting of officers and chiefs on the 22d ultimo, as capable of being elected to the guddee.

2. The Governor-general concludes that you have not made known to any of the ministers or chiefs at the court of Gwalior the line of conduct which, under your present instructions, you would pursue in the event of the demise of Scindiah without male issue (or any adoption having taken place), and his Lordship directs that you will reserve yourself upon that point, and take no step which might tend to compel an adherence, under other circumstances than the present, to the line of conduct now prescribed to you.

3. You will of course endeavour to make yourself fully acquainted with all the proceedings of the ministers, officers and chiefs, with respect to an adoption ; and you will have the goodness to state, in separate despatches, all you learn and all you do upon this important matter.

EXTRACT Letter from the Resident at Gwalior to the Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-General ; dated Gwalior Residency, 23 September 1842.

6. ACCOMPANYING this letter I transmit, for the Governor-general's information, a genealogical table of the family of Scindiah, collected nearly wholly from information lodged in the Persian office of this Presidency, and corroborated from the best available sources in the camp.

7. In the event of an adoption, the general report is that the choice will lie between a son of Babajee Scindia, a boy of about five or six years of age, his father's name (Babajee) as in the column next on the left of the present Maharaja, in the genealogical table; and the son of Sergajee Scindia, a boy of about three years of age, on the extreme left of the Table.

8. The parents of these children, I believe, belong to the Silladdar horse, in the Lushkur, but in what capacity I have not heard. I am making inquiries as to their rank and characters, and will lose no time in forwarding to you the most correct account I can procure of those individuals; I am, however, forced to be cautious in ascertaining those points, from the apprehension of creating suspicion.

9. The instructions forwarded to me in March 1841 by Government, have never been out of my possession; and my assistant, Captain Ellis, is the only person, European or native, whom I have made acquainted with their contents.

10. The authorities and people in general here have formed an idea, that in the event of the present Maharaja dying without male issue, that there will be no objections to an adoption being made of a successor from the Scindiah family by the widow of the late Dowlut Rao Scindia (Rookma Bacc) now in the palace, or by his own widow, the Tara Bacc, as has been the case in all Hindoo states; but I have never been asked for or given an opinion on the subject.

11. I shall observe, as instructed in your letter now under acknowledgment, the proceedings of the officers and chiefs of this camp in regard to an adoption, as the opportunities I have enable me to do, or of aught else respecting the well-being of this state, and keep you acquainted therewith by separate despatches for the information of the Governor-general.

From the Resident at Gwalior to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-General; dated Gwalior Residency, 24 September 1842.

Sir,

With reference to my letter of the 23d instant to your address, I beg leave to state, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, that the person whose name is inserted in the Genealogical Table I forwarded with that communication as Babajee Scindia was named Hemwunt Rao, though known in general by no other appellation than the former. He fired the funeral pile as next of kin to the former Maharaja, Dowlut Rao Scindia. He has been dead for some time; the exact date, however, I have not been able to ascertain.

2. His son, Bhageerut Rao, is a fine boy, about eight years of age, good looking, and of a fair complexion; he is the only male of his family, and his mother and himself are all that now belong to it; they are considered respectable in their line of life. The person who furnished this information saw the boy two days ago.

3. The only subsistence they are known to have is (Rs. 15.) fifteen rupees per mensem, as belonging to the Silladar horse; but at present, I am told, he has not even one animal of that description; they receive the money in right of the boy's father having served with and belonging to that body of cavalry.

4. The present Maharaja's father, Patloo-bah, also served in that force; he had two horses, one of which he rode himself, and the present Mama Sahib, his brother-in-law, the present Maharaja's maternal uncle, rode the other, as his bageer.

5. The choice, therefore, should it fall upon Bugeerut Rao, will not be singular, as regards the class from which the adoption is made.

6. Sugajee, the father of the other boy I mentioned in my letter above alluded to, I find, left the Maharaja's lushkar, or camp, some time ago, and is now with his family in the Dukhun. The period of his departure from hence I have not been able to ascertain, and I do not think it advisable to do so, unless it should be the wish of the Governor-general.

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7. I beg leave to assure his Lordship that I have made every possible inquiry to ascertain all particulars relative to those two boys, without giving rise to suspicions, or to give offence, and the foregoing, though meagre, is all that I have been able to collect as yet.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Alex. Spiers*, Resident.

From the Secretary to the Government of India, with the Governor-General, to the Resident at Gwalior ; dated Simla, 5 October 1842.

Sir,

IN acknowledging the receipt of your letter, dated 24th ultimo, No. 109, I am directed to inform you, that the Genealogical Table therein referred to has not been received in this department.

2. It would appear to the Governor-general that the boy, Bageerut Rao, has the best claim to the succession.

I have, &c.

(signed) *T. H. Maddock*,
Secretary to the Government of India
with the Governor-general.

From the Resident at Gwalior to the Secretary to the Government of India,
dated Gwalior Residency, Half-past Nine, p. m., 7 February 1843.

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Sir,

It is with deep regret I have to acquaint you, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, that I have this instant received intimation of the death of his Highness the Maharaja Jenkojee Rao Sindiah.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Alex. Spiers*, Resident.

EXTRACT Letter from the Resident at Gwalior to the Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-General; dated Gwalior, 8 February 1843.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Governor-general, that immediately after the despatch to you of my letter of yesterday night, announcing the demise of his late Highness the Maharaja Junkojee Rao Scindiah, I received two pressing messages from the ministers, earnestly requesting my presence at the palace.

2. I accordingly went there, accompanied by my assistant, Captain Ellis, where I found assembled the ministers and all the influential officers and people about the court; after having expressed my deep regret to them on the melancholy event which had occurred, and offered a few words of consolation in particular to the Mama Sahib, the late Maharaja's uncle, they informed me that the Tara Rannee, the widow of the late Junkojee Rao Scindiah (whom they acknowledged as their sovereign mistress), themselves, and also those then present, had selected as successor to the gудdee, Bageerut Rao, a boy of about eight or nine years of age, son of Babajee Scindiah, *alias* Hunwunt Rao, and who is the nearest in blood in the family to the late Maharaja.

3. This is the boy alluded to in my letters of the 23d and 24th September last, and the same to whom reference is made in the 2d paragraph of Mr. Maddock's letter to my address of the 5th October last, in which I am informed that the Governor-general had expressed his opinion that the Bageerut Rao had the best claim to the succession. He was present at the durbar, and introduced to me; he is a fine sharp-looking boy, I think about 10 or 11 years of age.

4. The ministers appealed to all those then present as to the correctness of the statement they had made to me relative to the choice of a successor to the late Maharaja, which they admitted they entirely agreed in.

5. They then took me to the purdah of the room, where the Rance and other ladies of the family were in, and where, after I had offered a few words of consolation on the irretrievable loss they had sustained, and general assurances of the continued friendship of the British Government to them, through the Dada Khasghee Walla, they (the ministers) repeated what they had told them in the public durbar, to which the Rance assented, and said that the Maharaja had several months previously informed her, that in the event of his death she was to adopt Bhageerut Rao as her son and his successor.

6. I informed the Rance in reply, that this being the case, I had every hope that no objections would be offered by the Governor-general to her choice and that of her advisers, and to whom I would immediately communicate the circumstance through the Secretary in the Political Department.

7. I would, had I seen a necessity for so doing, have immediately communicated to her that I was empowered to confirm a choice so made, but as all parties appeared quite satisfied with the assurance I had given them, I considered it advisable not to say more on the subject.

EXTRACT Letter from the Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-General, to the Resident at Gwalior; dated Camp, Delhi, 10 February 1843.

1. I HAVE had the honour to lay before the Governor-general of India your despatch dated the 8th instant, announcing the demise of Maharaja Junkojee Rao Scindiah, and the adoption, by his widow, of Bhageerut Rao.

2. You are requested to express to the durbar the deep regret experienced

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by his Lordship on the occasion of the demise of the late faithful friend of the British Government.

3. At the same time, it is the cause of great satisfaction that the Tara Ranee, the widow of the late Maharaja, has adopted, with the apparently general concurrence of the chiefs and people, the boy whom the Governor-general had himself deemed to be nearest in blood to the late Maharaja.

NOTIFICATION by the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India ;
dated 11 February 1843.

THE Governor-general having received from the Resident at Gwalior intelligence of the demise, on the 7th instant, of his Highness Junkojee Rao Seindiah, has been pleased to direct that minute guns, to the number of 27, corresponding with the age of the deceased, be fired in honour of his memory at the principal military stations in Bengal and the North-Western Provinces.

The Governor-general has also received information of the adoption, by the widow of the late Maharaja, with the assent of the chiefs and people, of Bhageerut Rao, the person nearest in blood to the late Maharaja. The title assumed by his Highness will hereafter be made known, and orders will then be issued for paying the accustomed honours on his Highness's accession.

By order of the Right honourable the Governor-general of India.

(signed) *J. Thomason,*
Officiating Sec. to the Govt. of India
with Governor-general.

EXTRACT Letter from the Resident at Gwalior to the Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-General; dated Gwalior Residency, 9 February 1843.

1. I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, that the young boy, Bageerut Rao, has been placed in the same apartments in the palace which the late Maharaja occupied previous to his being placed on the guddee, and has the same number of guards and servants in attendance upon him. I believe it is not the intention of the Rance and chiefs to proclaim his succession until his Lordship's approval is obtained to their selection.

7. On the accession of the late Maharaja to the throne, he was presented by Government with a khelat to the value of upwards of 30,000 rupees; may I request the favour of his Lordship's orders on this subject also.

EXTRACT Letter from the Resident at Gwalior to Secretary to the Government of India, with the Governor-General; dated Gwalior Residency, 11 February 1843.

1. I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, that, agreeably to the usage, and at the suggestion of the ministers, I this morning paid a visit of condolence to the Maharanee.

5. The Maharanee and the ministers expressed themselves extremely anxious for the speedy receipt of the Governor-general's approval and confirmation of their choice of Bageerut Rao, as successor to the late Maharaja, that he may speedily be proclaimed as such. It is therefore my intention to transmit this expression of their wishes by express, for the Governor-general's information.

EXTRACT Letter from the Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-General, to the Resident at Gwalior; dated Camp, Delhi, 13 February 1843.

1. Your letters of the 9th and 11th instant were received this morning.

2. The Governor-general rejoices that his immediate recognition communicated to you on the 10th instant, of the Maharaja adopted by the Rance, with the consent of the chiefs and people, will have already removed all probable anxiety

anxiety on their part with respect to the intentions of the British Government, and will have added to the many proofs the family of Scindiah has received, of the sincere disposition entertained to preserve the family and the raj of so faithful an ally.

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* * * * *

8. The Governor-general will move from Delhi towards Agra on the 20th; and if there should not be difficulties of a serious nature arising out of the youth of the Maharaja, or other circumstances with which he is now unacquainted, the Governor-general would have much satisfaction in receiving the Maharaja in the beginning of March at Agra, and in their investing his Highness with the khillut.

EXTRACT Letter from the Resident at Gwalior to the Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-general; dated Gwalior Residency, 13 February 1843.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, and in reply beg leave to acquaint you, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, that immediately on receipt of your letter above acknowledged, I sent for the deputy durbar vakeel, and informed him of the intelligence which it contained, and in the course of the day delivered to the vakeel himself the purport of it in Persian, with a note from myself.

2. The durbar vakeel waited upon me this forenoon, and informed me, that in making known that communication to the Ranee, she expressed the highest satisfaction at the Governor-general's having so early intimated to her his approval of her choice, and directed a public durbar to be held this morning, at which the translation of his Lordship's letter was read and explained to the whole of the principal civil and military officers of the state.

3. It was then resolved, that Bageerut Rao should be proclaimed as Jyajee Rao Scindiah Bahadoor, at about three o'clock this afternoon, the fortunate hour selected for that auspicious event.

4. Immediately after the expiration of the usual period of the 13 days of mourning (from the death of the late Maharaja), it has been decided that he is to be placed upon the throne, that having been fixed upon as the fortunate hour for that ceremony, and the Rance has requested that I should attend and place him upon the guddee.

5. I replied I should attend, and assist in placing him upon the throne.

EXTRACT Letter from the Resident at Gwalior to the Secretary to the Government of India; dated Gwalior Residency, 14 February 1843.

IN my letter to your address of yesterday, I neglected to mention, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, that the present Maharajah Ali Jah Jyajee Rao Scindiah Bahadoor, was proclaimed yesterday under that style and title, and adopts the other titles which have belonged to the family for several generations past.

2. It was first intended, I am informed, that the Maharaja should have taken the name of Mahadojee Rao Scindiah, but in consequence of a former child of the house having been named after him and died, it was not considered fortunate that he should take that name; he therefore took that of Jyajee Rao Scindiah, after the eldest legitimate son of Ranojee, who, like his father, was a great warrior, and who was, I believe, assassinated in the Jodpoor country by Rajah Bijee Sing, the prince of that territory, against whom he had led his troops.

EXTRACT Letter from the Resident at Gwalior to the Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-general; dated Gwalior Residency, 16 February 1843.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, that I lost no time in communicating the purport of your letter of the 13th instant, received yesterday, to the durbar authorities here.

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2. The durbar vakeel has just now brought me the reply of the Ranee and ministers, that they are most anxious to comply in every way with the wishes of the Governor-general, but have requested me to state, that, in consequence of the long and continued illness of the late Maharaja, the troops are greatly in arrears, the infantry being 10 months, and the cavalry upwards of 15 months in arrears; to clear off which, a sum considerably upwards of 50 lacs of rupees will be required.

3. They further requested me to state, that it will take some time for them to arrange for the payment of so large a sum, and that if the troops are not paid, they fear some serious disturbances may take place, and that they may select the very time when the young Maharaja is about to move to Agra, for demanding their arrears, which might greatly embarrass them then, and in their future proceedings for bringing into order the affairs of the Government, which are at present greatly disjointed.

4. They have also begged that I should state, that the Maharaja is so very young and untaught, they fear he might be acting too much like a child in the presence of the Governor-general; they, however, feel assured that his Lordship would make allowances for the boy did any such occurrence take place.

5. They have requested me to suggest, that as perhaps the stay of the Governor-general at Agra may be prolonged for some time, that three or four months hence they would be prepared to take over the young Maharaja to wait upon his Lordship, when he would be more suitably attended than he would be likely to be at present, and no danger of any disturbances taking place during his absence from Gwalior.

6. The vakeel, however, has requested me to add, that the Maharanee and ministers will allow no consideration to prevent the Maharaja's going to Agra as early as possible in next month (March), if, after my having submitted the above circumstances for the consideration of his Lordship, he should wish that measure to be adopted; and if he should not, that a deputation of two or three of the principal chiefs of the Government, properly attended, will be sent to congratulate his Lordship on his arrival there.

7. The elevation of the Maharaja to the throne has been fixed by the astrologers and chiefs for Wednesday morning, the 22d instant, as being a more fortunate day than Monday, which was first selected.

8. The Maharanee and ministers, though highly appreciating the distinguished honour which the Governor-general wishes to confer on the young Maharaja, by bestowing the khillut on him in his own presence, are still very anxious that, agreeably to former usage, he should be presented with so highly estimated a mark of the friendship and consideration of the British Government on the day of his enthronement.

EXTRACT Letter from the Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-General to the Resident at Gwalior; dated Camp, Delhi, 18 February 1843.

2. THE Governor-general acquiesces in the reasonable objections stated by the durbar to his Highness's visiting Agra at this time.

3. You are authorized to confer upon his Highness the usual khillut on the day of his being placed upon the guddee. You will take the Maharaja's hand, and perform that ceremony yourself, as the durbar appear to desire; thereby affording the most public proof of the confirmation by the Governor-general of the Maharaja's adoption, and giving a pledge of his friendship and support of the British Government.

6. A general order will be issued immediately, notifying the Maharaja's accession, and directing the customary salute to be fired in honour of the occasion.

NOTIFICATION by the Right honourable the Governor-General of India :
dated Camp, Delhi, 18 February 1843.

THE Resident at Gwalior having reported, on the 14th instant, the accession of the adopted son of the late Maharaja Junkoojee Rao Scindiah, under the title of Maharaja Ali Jah Jyajee Rao Scindiah, to the vacant guddee of the Gwalior state,

state, the Governor-general is pleased to direct that a salute of 19 guns be fired in honour of this event, at the principal military stations in Bengal and the North Western Provinces.

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By Order of the Right honourable the Governor-general of India.

(signed) *J. Thomason,*

Off^r Secy to the Gov^t of India with
the Governor-general.

EXTRACT Letter from the Resident at Gwalior to the Secretary to the Government of India; dated Gwalior Residency, 23 February 1843.

1. I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Governor-general, that yesterday being the day appointed for placing the young Maharaja on the guddee, Captain Ellis, my assistant, and Lieutenant Bean, commanding my escort, and myself, went to the palace, where we arrived shortly after daybreak.

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10. The hour for placing the Maharaja on the throne having arrived, the ministers left me, when after a short period the durbar vakeel, the officers who accompanied me, and myself, entered the hall of audience, which I found crowded with the principal officers of the state, and influential people of all classes; I was conducted to the neighbourhood of the purdah, behind which the Maharanee was sitting, where I met the young Maharaja, standing to receive me, from whence I led him to the guddee, on which I placed him about half an hour after sunrise, when a heavy discharge of guns and small arms in honour of the event immediately took place, and which continued for some time.

11. The usual khillut was then presented on the part of the Governor-general on occasions of this description, consisting of 36 trays, as noted in the margin, with an elephant and two horses, all richly caparisoned; on the termination of this ceremony, one of the turbans, which formed part of this present, and which was richly ornamented with jewels, was taken up by one of the chiefs, and that which the Maharaja wore, and much of the same description, was removed, and the former put on by the ministers, behind a temporary screen of cloth drawn in front of the Maharaja, on the removal of which cloth a royal salute was directed to be fired.

7 Trays of jewels,
24 Ditto of clothes,
5 Ditto of articles of
European manu-
facture.

36

12. The ministers, the officers who accompanied me, and myself, then went and sat down on each side of the purdah above alluded to, when the Maharanee expressed her gratitude to the Governor-general for his friendship, and for the extreme liberality and consideration which had on all occasions been shown to her late husband's family by the British Government, which, she said, she could not sufficiently extol, and should never forget.

Holkar Succession, 1833, 1834.

EXTRACT Political Letter from India; dated 31 July (No. 12) 1834.

2. MR. MARTIN reported the death of Maharaja Mulhar Rao Holkar, on the 27th October last, and the adoption of a successor in the person of a son of Bapoo Holkar.

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1833, 1834.

3. With regard to the adoption which had taken place, it was intimated to Captain Robinson, who had been appointed to the charge of the Residency during the absence of Mr. Martin on leave, that we were not aware that it was open to any objection, and the usual letter of condolence was accordingly addressed to the widow of the late Maharaja. We deemed it proper, however, to observe on this occasion, that the British Government was not to be considered as bound to support this arrangement, if it should appear to be illegal or subversive of the rights of any other party, or contrary to the wishes of the majority of the chiefs and followers of the Holkar state. It was acknowledged simply as the spontaneous and unopposed act of the Holkar government, in which the people of that state seemingly acquiesced.

Cons. 12 Dec.
Nos. 55 and 56.

Holkar Succession,
1833, 1834.

5. We had in the meantime received a despatch from Mr. Martin, reminding us of the existence of Hurry Holkar, the son of Ectojee, the eldest illegitimate brother of the late Jeswunt Rao Holkar, who had been confined for many years in the fort of Muheyoor, where he was still a prisoner. Mr. Martin observed, that although Hurry Holkar could have no legitimate claim to the inheritance of his late cousin, which, according to the maxims of Hindoo law, belonged of right to the adopted son, yet if no adoption had been made, and expediency had been the only guide to a determination of the question of succession, the mature age of this descendant from a collateral branch of the late Maharaja's family might perhaps have suggested the propriety of conferring it on him.

Cons. 10 Jan.
No. 49.

6. In the despatch recorded, as per margin, the acting Resident reported, that one of the women belonging to the household of the late Maharaja Mulhar Rao Holkar had lately given birth to a son, of whom his Highness was acknowledged to be the father, and submitted his sentiments generally with respect to the succession.

7. We informed the officiating Resident in reply, that he must be aware that it was inconsistent with the general policy of the British Government to interfere with the internal administration of its allied states, and it was far from our desire, we added, that British influence should be exerted to maintain the present order of things, if opposed to the general wish of the country.

8. There appeared to be three individuals whose pretensions to the sovereignty might be alleged with some colour of right, namely, Hurree Holkar, the cousin of the late Maharaja, the infant son born subsequently to his death, and the adopted son. We were not prepared to pronounce upon the relative superiority of these claims, and we conceived that the decision might fairly be left to the voice of the country. Our duty, it was stated, would be to maintain whatever arrangement might appear to be unequivocal consonant to the general wish.

Cons. 6 Feb.
No. 67.

11. In the despatch which will be found on the proceedings of the annexed date, Captain Robinson reported the delivery of the Governor-general's letter of condolence to Gotuma Baee, and offered some observations on the adoption which had taken place in the person of the son of Bapoo Holkar, as well as on the case of Hurree Holkar.

12. In a subsequent letter the acting Resident communicated to us the date fixed upon for the installation of the successor of Mulhar Rao Holkar, and the course pursued by him with reference to a pressing invitation which he had received, on the part of the durbar, to be present at the ceremony. In that communication Captain Robinson also submitted for our consideration the wish expressed by the court of Indore, on the subject of the presentation of a khilant to the young Maharaja, in the name of the Governor-general.

Cons. 6 Feb.
No. 70.

13. The installation of the young chief accordingly took place on the 17th July, under the style and title of Maharaja Martund Rao Holkar.

14. We entirely approved of Captain Robinson's proceedings on the above occasion.

Cons. 3 April.
Nos. 98 and 100.

15. The acting Resident, in the despatches reported as per margin, reported the forcible release of Hurree Holkar from confinement, by a body of armed men, and his having been proclaimed as the head of the Indore state, as well as the importunity of the durbar for the interposition of the British Government.

Cons. 3 April,
No. 101.

16. In reply to the above despatches, Captain Robinson was informed by a letter from the secretary in attendance on the Governor-general, that the view which he had taken as to the course of proceeding he should adopt in the present crisis, as expressed in the 8th para. of his letter of the 10th February, appeared to his Lordship to be correct, namely, that it would be right to continue the usual intercourse with the existing authorities, so long as they might be able to maintain their present position: but that in the event of Hurree Holkar's succeeding in subverting their authority, and establishing his own ascendancy, it would then be proper to consider him as the sovereign of the Holkar state, and to admit his claim to the same relations with the British Government as subsisted during the lifetime of his cousin the late Mulhar Rao Holkar.

Cons. 13 March,
No. 31.

19. The despatch recorded as per margin describes the commotion excited by the refusal of Hurree Holkar to receive the deputation which had been sent on the part of the durbar to wait on him. On this occasion the Mahjee, in great alarm, had recourse to Captain Robinson for his advice, who availed himself of this favourable opportunity to interpose with effect, for the purpose of putting
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an end to the present disorders, by persuading the Mahjee to relinquish a struggle which had already proved so injurious to the country, and to invite Hurree Holkar to assume the place of her late son, this being the only course by which she could repair the error she had committed in adopting the son of Bapoo Holkar.

21. In the despatch recorded in the margin, the acting Resident reported the prospect of returning tranquillity to the Holkar dominions, by the arrival of Hurree Holkar at Indore, and his assumption of the sovereignty amidst the acclamations of all classes of the community. In compliance with an application submitted by the Resident on that occasion, we authorized him to confer a khilliant of investiture on his Highness, adding, however, that it was expected that Hurree Holkar would present a nuzzer equivalent in value to the dress of honour conferred on him.

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Cons. 3 April,
No. 106.

Cons. 29 May,
Nos. 38 and 39.

EXTRACT Letter from *W. B. Martin, Esq.*, Resident at Indore, to *W. H. Macnaghten, Esq.*, Secretary to Government in the Political Department; dated 27 October 1833, No. 165.

1. It is my painful duty to announce to you, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council, the melancholy event of the decease of his Highness Maharaja Mulhar Rao Holkar, who expired this morning.

* * * * *

5. His Highness died at about the hour of ten this morning, when I immediately proceeded to the palace, where I found on my arrival that preparations were making for the removal of his Highness's remains to the place appointed for the performance of the funeral rites.

6. The state of overwhelming affliction in which I found the Mahjee, into whose presence I was immediately admitted, rendered it impracticable for me to do more than attempt to suggest the usual topics of consolation, which she acknowledged, by expressing her entire confidence in the assurances of sympathy which I addressed to her, and her implicit reliance on my solicitude for the welfare of herself and family.

7. I had been previously informed by the minister, who received me on the steps of the palace, that shortly before the Maharaja's death, and when they began to despair of his existence, arrangements had been made for adopting the infant son of Bapoo Holkar, a boy of between three and four years of age, but it appeared that the measure had been delayed to so late a period of time, as precluded the possibility of its having been executed with the Maharaja's knowledge, who is supposed to have not even seen the boy who was the object of it.

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10. As far as I could judge from the very brief and interrupted conversation which I had this morning with the Mahjee, and the principal officers of the court and household, the adoption of the son of Bapoo Holkar appears to me to be the arrangement which is most agreeable to all their wishes; but so intense and violent was the grief of the Mahjee, and so great was the confusion and tumult, that it was impossible for me to ascertain, with the precision necessary to enable me to form a correct judgment on the subject, all the particulars relating to the adoption of which the combination may be requisite to establish its validity.

11. But I shall hereafter have the honour of communicating them, together with such other details connected with the late melancholy event, as may be necessary to the satisfaction of Government.

EXTRACT Letter from the Resident at Indore to the Secretary to Government in the Political Department, Fort William; dated Indore, 5 November 1833.

Para. 1. IN pursuance of the intention communicated to you in the 11th para. of my letter dated the 27th ultimo, I have now the honour to report, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council, the additional particulars respecting the alleged adoption of a successor to the government of Holkar, which I have since had an opportunity of ascertaining.

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2. The interval of time prescribed by usage for the mourning ceremonies, necessarily suspended all immediate communication between the palace and myself for some days subsequent to the event of the Maharaja's death.

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7. The object both of Rookma Baee's first visit, and also of another interview which she afterwards had with Captain Johnstone, appeared to be rather that of sounding my intentions, and of providing for the advantage of her own interests, than of stating any specific message which she had been commissioned to deliver; but as she expressed the Mahjee's wish that I should visit her before the usual period of mourning had expired, I determined to manifest a prompt compliance with it, and I accordingly waited on her Highness yesterday evening at the palace, accompanied by the gentlemen of my family.

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9. The darkness and confusion which prevailed, rendered it impracticable for Captain Johnstone to commit immediately to writing the particulars of what occurred, but he prepared, this morning, from memory, the accompanying statement, which appears to me to convey a generally correct impression of the tenor of my conversation with the Mahjee and also with Gotuma Baee, the widow of the late prince, the character of whose agency in the adoption which was stated to have been made, it appeared to me to be an object of great importance to the validity of that arrangement to ascertain, and which I was therefore desirous of authenticating by the precaution of a direct expression of it from her own mouth.

10. Although the result of that conversation does not warrant a belief that the adoption of the son of Bapoo Holkar was distinctly assented to, or even known by the Maharaja previously to his death, it is yet sufficient to justify a conclusion that it was a measure in which the two principal surviving members of his family concurred, and under this impression I am aware of nothing which should operate to prevent the immediate recognition of the object of that adoption by the British Government.

11. The tender age, indeed, of the boy on whom the choice has fallen, and who has thus been suddenly raised from a condition of comparative obscurity to the possession of a throne, would in the eye of reason constitute an objection to his eligibility, if the dictates of reason alone were consulted in the constitution of this or any other government. But in the existing state of things, in which the prejudices of religion and of family connexion combine with the sanction of national and immemorial usage to regulate the choice of a successor, that which has been actually made appears to me to be as little embarrassed with difficulties as any other which, consistently with the observance of the same principles of selection, could have been decided.

MEMORANDUM of the Conversation at an Interview between the Resident and the Mother and the Widow of Maharaja Mulhar Rao Holkar, on the 4th of November 1833.

On being conducted into a closet where the Mahjee was seated on a couch apparently in a state of deep affliction, the Resident expressed his condolence on the death of the late Maharaja, and urged her Highness to submit with patience to the will of Providence.

The Resident then stated, that he sincerely sympathized with the Mahjee on the loss of her son; but it was incumbent on her now to direct her attention to the interests of her family, and he had come to the palace for the purpose of hearing what arrangements were proposed with regard to the succession, and the future administration of the affairs of the state.

The Mahjee replied, that her family had all along experienced the active support of the British Government, and that it rested with the Resident to make arrangements for the succession.

The Resident said that it was a primary object with the British Government to promote the welfare of the Holkar family, and the prosperity of the country over which they exercised authority; that though he was himself a sincere well-wisher of her Highness's family, it was not his duty to point out any particular course, but to learn what she, in concert with the other members of the household and officers of the government, had determined as to the succession.

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After much hesitation, and repeatedly stating that it rested with the Resident to make arrangements for the succession, the Mahjee at last stated that a boy, the son of Bappoo Holkar, had, on the day of the Maharaja's death, been brought into the private apartments for the purpose of adoption; that when the Maharaja was drawing to his end, the danger of his situation was communicated to him, and the propriety of nominating a successor was suggested; that the Maharaja signified his assent, and on being asked whom he wished to be adopted, he replied that Bappoo Holkar was no distant connexion, and his son ought to be chosen; that immediately after saying this, the Maharaja was affected with giddiness, and desired Dr. Wilson might be called in to administer some cooling draught; that soon afterwards the Maharaja fainted, and it was found necessary to remove him to the ground-floor of the palace, as it was evident his existence was drawing to a close; there was consequently no time to send notice of the adoption to the Residency.

On the Resident inquiring who were present on the occasion referred to, the Mahjee answered, that Dr. Wilson, Appa Rao, Madhoo Rao Furnavese, and Gopal Rao, had all been requested to retire into another room before the above conversation took place, and none were present excepting the females of the family.

The Resident asked if it was the wish of the Mahjee and of the Maharaja's widow, Gotuma Bae, to adopt the son of Bappoo Holkar, and the Mahjee said, that both she and Gotuma Bae wished to adopt him.

On a question being put, as to who possessed the right of adoption, it was immediately admitted that the widow possessed that power; and the Mahjee stated that Gotuma Bae was close by when the conversation with the Maharaja, regarding the adoption, took place.

The Resident then inquired who Bappoo Holkar was, and it was stated, that he was of the same tribe and lineage as the late Maharaja, and only three or four degrees removed from Tookajee Holkar.

The Resident having asked whether he could have an opportunity of speaking to Gotuma Bae regarding the adoption, the Mahjee replied, that Gotuma Bae was a child, and would give no satisfactory answer, but would merely say, as she had always previously said, that whatever was the Mahjee's pleasure, was also agreeable to her. This gave rise to some inquiries as to the age of the lady, and it was admitted that she was 21 years old. The Mahjee at last said, that if the Resident desired it, he might speak to Gotuma Bae. Gopal Rao went to the Bae to communicate the Resident's wishes, and after some interval he returned, and intimated that any meeting with Gotuma Bae was unnecessary, as she had signified her determination to be guided by the counsel of the Mahjee; as the Mahjee, however, now seemed willing that the meeting should take place, the Resident proceeded to another part of the palace where Gotuma Bae was seated behind a curtain.

After the usual complimentary expressions, the Resident asked Gotuma Bae, whether she had been present when the son of Bappoo Holkar was brought into the Maharaja's apartment immediately before the death of his Highness, and whether she had consented to adopt the boy: she replied, that she consented to whatever was agreeable to the Mahjee. On the Resident requesting her to say whether she herself was desirous of adopting the boy; she replied in the affirmative. The Resident asked how long the adoption of the child had been in contemplation, and when he was brought into the palace; she stated, that he had been brought on the day of the Maharaja's decease. The Resident then made some inquiries regarding the boy's age, &c.; but the answers were chiefly given by Gopal Rao.

To her Highness *Gotuma Bae*.

My honoured and valued friend,

I HAVE learnt with much sorrow, from the report of Mr. W. B. Martin, the lamented demise of Maharaja Mulhar Rao Holkar, your late respected husband, and I sincerely sympathise with your Highness on this melancholy event.

Your Highness must be fully aware that there is no evading the decrees of Providence, and I would urgently recommend you to stifle your own grief on

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this mournful occasion, in order that you may be better enabled to afford consolation to the other members of your family, who must also be immersed in affliction.

In conclusion, &c.

(signed) *W. H. Macnaghten*,
Secretary to Government.

Fort William, 12 Dec. 1833.

EXTRACT Letter from Secretary to Government to Captain *Robinson*, Officiating Resident at Indore; dated 12 December 1833.

Para. 1. I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Martin's letters, under date the 27th October and 5th ultimo, reporting the death of Mulhar Rao Holkar, and the adoption of a successor in the person of the son of Bapoo Holkar.

2. The conduct of Mr. Martin throughout the transactions in question appears to have been such as to merit the approbation of Government. With regard to the adoption which has taken place, his Lordship in Council is not aware that it is open to any objection. But the British Government is not to be considered as bound to support this arrangement if it should appear to be illegal, or subversive of the rights of any other party, or contrary to the wishes of the majority of the chiefs and followers of the Holkar state. It is acknowledged simply as the spontaneous unopposed act of the Holkar Government, in which the people of that state seemingly acquiesce.

EXTRACT Letter from the Resident at Indore to the Secretary to Government; dated 9 November 1833.

SINCE closing my letter, dated the 5th instant, it has occurred to me to be proper, rather for the purpose of adverting to all the circumstances relating to the subject of it, than with a view to any practical conclusion, to bring to the recollection of Government the existence of Hurry Holkar, who is the son of Ectoojee, the eldest illegitimate brother of the late Juswunt Rao Holkar, who has been confined for many years in the fort of Muheyour, where he is still a prisoner.

2. Although he can have no legitimate claim to the inheritance of his late cousin, which, according to the maxims of Hindoo law, belongs of right to the adopted son, yet, if no adoption had been made, and the expediency had been the only guide to a determination of the question of succession, the mature age of this descendant from a collateral branch of the late Maharaja's family might have perhaps suggested the propriety of conferring it on him.

EXTRACT Letter from the Resident at Indore to the Secretary to Government; dated 23 December 1833.

Para. 1. THOUGH no formal intimation on the subject has yet been made to me from the Indore durbar, I think it right to lose no time in communicating for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council, that I have received intelligence, on which I can rely, that one of the women belonging to the household of the late Maharaja Mulhar Rao Holkar has lately given birth to a son, of whom his Highness is acknowledged to be the father.

2. From all that I can learn, however, of the intentions of the Court, it does not appear to me that the birth of this posthumous child is likely to produce any change in the arrangement originally proposed for the succession, as reported in Mr. Martin's letter of the 27th of October last.

3. Government have already been apprized of the existence of Hurree Holkar, the cousin of the late Maharaja, and of his being in confinement in the fort of Meheysur, where he has been a prisoner for many years.

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7. Judging from the casual observations made to me by natives of respectability and intelligence, unconnected with the present Indore authorities, it seems

seems to be the general opinion, that without the decided support of the British Government, the present order of things cannot be maintained for any length of time; the persons now in power are neither feared nor respected, and are evidently themselves alarmed at the prospect before them in the increasing popularity of Hurree Holkar's cause.

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8. Under these circumstances, much anxiety has lately been expressed to me by the Indore authorities, that the adoption which has been made should receive the early confirmation of the British Government, in order that the boy may be publicly seated on the guddee; a measure which they think requisite to strengthen their authority, and calculated to suppress all intrigues in favour of Hurree Holkar, or any other claimant.

9. Should Hurree Holkar effect his escape from confinement, it is by no means improbable that he would immediately be joined by a considerable portion of the troops of the state, some of whom served with him in the battle of Mehidpore, where he is said to have acquired their respect and attachment by the courage he displayed on that occasion.

EXTRACT Letter from the Secretary with the Governor-general to the
Officiating Resident at Indore; dated 10 January 1834.

Para. 1. I AM directed by his Excellency the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 23d ultimo, reporting that one of the women belonging to the household of the late Maharaja Mulhar Rao Holkar has lately given birth to a son, of whom his Highness is acknowledged to be the father, and submitting your sentiments generally with respect to the succession.

2. It appears to be your opinion, that if the voice of the community at large were allowed to determine the question of succession, the preponderance would probably be much in favour of Hurree Holkar, as being, at the period of his cousin's demise, the nearest surviving male relative, as well as considered more likely to give general satisfaction in the administration of the government than any of the persons in whose hands the power is now lodged.

3. Conformably with the principle of non-interference, which it is deemed proper and expedient to preserve, it is far from the desire of his Lordship in Council that British influence should be exerted to maintain the present order of things if opposed to the general wish of the country.

4. There would appear to be three individuals whose pretensions to the sovereignty might be alleged with some colour of right, namely, Hurree Holkar, the cousin of the late Maharaja, the infant son born subsequently to his death, and the adopted son. His Lordship in Council is not prepared to pronounce upon the relative superiority of these claims. The decision may fairly be left to the voice of the country, and our duty will be to maintain whatever arrangement may appear to be unequivocally consonant to the general wish.

EXTRACT Letter from the Acting Resident at Indore to the Secretary
to Government; dated 10 January 1834.

Para. 4. As far as my observation and inquiry extend, there appears little doubt that the adoption which has been made in the person of a son of Bapoo Holkar was exclusively the contrivance of the Mahjee and her advisers for the purpose of perpetuating their own power, and that the wishes of Gotuma Bae were not at all consulted on the occasion, though, by the usual rules of inheritance, she alone possessed the right of adoption.

5. It is not however supposed that even had her Highness been left unfettered in the choice of a successor, that any better arrangement could have been made than that which has been adopted, or any that was calculated to give more general satisfaction to the chiefs and followers of the Holkar state, except, perhaps, that which would have conferred the succession on Hurree Holkar.

6. It may indeed be doubted whether, under the circumstances of the case, any adoption at all should have been made, since it was of course well known among the members of the late Maharaja's family, though concealed from the knowledge of the Resident, that one of his Highness's mistresses had been left

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pregnant by him: the issue of this pregnancy, it is thought, should have been waited for before any adoption could become valid, as it is contended that in the event of a son being born, the illegitimacy of his birth did not necessarily vitiate his claim to the inheritance: claims much more equivocal having sometimes been admitted in the families of Mahratta princes. Such delay, however, might not have suited the views of the party by whom the adoption appears really to have been made, and which was certainly hurried through with a degree of precipitancy but ill calculated to remove the suspicion of its irregularity.

7. Being now in possession of the sentiments and instructions of Government regarding the existing arrangement, I conceive that I shall best conform to the spirit of those instructions by abstaining, as hitherto, from any proceeding tending to induce a belief that the British Government is in any respect bound to uphold it. I have carefully and distinctly explained to the Indore authorities the understanding on which alone the arrangement is recognised or acknowledged.

8. It may be proper to mention that the activity of Hurree Holkar's partisans appears to have somewhat abated, or at least is not so strikingly manifest, as when I had last the honour of addressing you on the subject; this, however, may be owing less to any diminished interest in his cause, than to the greater circumspection which is requisite to preserve them from the measures of severity which have been lately exercised towards some who were suspected of favouring his pretensions.

From Her Highness *Goutuma Bae*, Widow of the late *Mulhar Rao Holkar*,
to the Governor-general.

(Received 2 February 1834.)

YOUR Lordship's letter, condoling with me on the demise of my husband, the late Maharaja Mulhar Rao Holkar (which event was reported to your Lordship by Mr. W. B. Martin, Resident at Indore), has been duly received by me.

The expressions of favour and consolatory terms contained in your Lordship's letter have much comforted my afflicted mind.

My esteemed friend, this melancholy event has occasioned to me grief and affliction beyond description; but, ascribing it to the will of God, I must take patience, and submit to the decrees of Providence, as recommended by your Lordship.

On the 6th Ramzan 1249, H. E. (17th January 1834 A. D.), my son, Maharajah Martund Rao Holkar Buhadoor, was seated on the musnud of this principality; an arrangement which I hope will afford satisfaction to your Lordship.

For further particulars, I beg to refer your Lordship to the letter from my mother-in-law to your Lordship's address.

In conclusion, I trust that, considering me to be one of your faithful allies, your Lordship will continue to gratify me by the transmission of your letters, containing the pleasing intelligence of your health and welfare.

(True translation.)

(signed) *G. M. Batten*,
Asst. Sec. to Govt.

(A true copy.)

(signed) *C. E. Trevelyan*,
Dy. Sec. to Govt.

From Her Highness *Kishna Bae*, the Mother of the late *Mulhar Rao Holkar*,
to the Governor-General.

(Received 2 February 1834.)

ON learning the melancholy event of the demise of my son, the late Maharaja Mulhar Rao Holkar, by a communication from Mr. Martin, Resident at Indore, your Lordship kindly recommended me to take patience, and submit
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to the decrees of Providence : this consideration on your Lordship's part has set my afflicted mind at rest.

My esteemed friend, although this sad event has occasioned grief and affliction to me beyond description, yet, ascribing it to the will of God, I must submit thereto, as there is no other remedy for it.

I have now the pleasure of informing your Lordship that on the 6th Ramzan 1249, H.E., (17th January 1834 A.D.), his Highness Maharaja Martund Rao Holkar Buhadoor, son of the late Mulhar Rao Holkar, was seated on the musnud of this principality ; an arrangement which I hope will give satisfaction to your Lordship.

As friendship and union have firmly existed from of old between the two states, and your Lordship has always been disposed to improve the relations of mutual amity and concord, and has ever at heart the welfare and prosperity of this government, I trust that your Lordship will consider the young Raja to be one of your faithful allies, and evince towards him the usual marks of consideration and regard.

For further particulars, I beg to refer your Lordship to the communication of Captain Robinson.

In conclusion, I trust that, considering me always to be one of your sincere friends, your Lordship will continue to gratify me with your favourable letters.

(True translation.)

(signed) *G. M. Batten,*
Asst. Sec. to Govt.

EXTRACT Letter from the Acting Resident, Indore, to *W. H. Macnaghten, Esq.,* Secretary to Government in the Political Department ; dated 11 January 1834.

1. I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council, that shortly after the despatch of my letter of yesterday's date, I received a communication from the Indore durbar, intimating that Friday next, the 17th instant, had been fixed upon as the auspicious day for seating on the Guddee the successor of the late Mulhar Rao Holkar, and inviting the attendance of the gentlemen of the Residency at the ceremony.

2. Madhoo Rao Furnavese, one of the principal officers of this government, and the usual medium of communication between the durbar and the Residency, has since waited upon me for the purpose of ascertaining whether a khillaut would be presented to the young Maharaja in the name of the Right honourable the Governor-general, both as a suitable and usual compliment on such an occasion, as well as indicating to the community at large the sanction and approval of the Supreme Government of the arrangement which had been made.

3. I replied, that I had yesterday very distinctly explained to the durbar the condition on which Government had expressed its willingness to recognise the adoption, and that it appeared to me the condition was such as precluded my bearing any ostensible part in the ceremony about to take place ; and I therefore hoped that the Mahjee would be good enough to dispense with my attendance on the occasion, as being quite unnecessary ; that with regard to conferring a khillaut in the name of the Governor-general, he was well aware that the practice had been discontinued, and that however much I should be gratified in being able to accede to her Highness's wishes in that respect, I was absolutely prohibited from so doing without the special permission of his Lordship ; and I urged the circumstance as an additional reason for wishing to be absent from the ceremony altogether.

4. Madhoo Rao rejoined, apparently with much alarm, and certainly with considerable excitement, that the absence of the English gentlemen on such an occasion was quite out of the question ; that it would be construed by the people at large as a virtual disapproval, on the part of the Governor-general, of the arrangement which had been made, and that the enemies of the state, of whom he said I knew there were many, would not fail to take advantage of such a circumstance to accomplish their own objects, and to throw every thing into confusion ; he therefore entreated that I would at all events be present at the ceremony,

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whatever part I might think fit to take in it, in order to remove an impression so injurious as that to which he had alluded.

5. I said I could not deny the cogency of the reasons which he had adduced for desiring my attendance, but being rather unwilling to concede the point on account of the ill use which might be made of my doing so, I inquired whether the ceremony could not be postponed, pending a reference to the Governor-general, whose instructions, I said, I could immediately solicit, and whose pleasure in the case might be ascertained in less than a month. Madhoo Rao replied, that the installation of the boy had already been too long delayed, and that it was of the utmost importance to the peace of the country that no further delay should occur; that if the fortunate day which had been named were not taken advantage of, the ceremony could not be performed until another revolution of the auspicious planet, which would not happen for the next three or four months; but as the presentation of a khillaut was not so indispensable a part of the ceremony as my attendance, her Highness the Mahjee would be willing to await the arrival of the Governor-general, so far as regarded that point, though it would be better could the khillaut be presented at the time.

6. I beg leave, therefore, to solicit the instructions of the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council, in regard to the presentation of a khillaut, and in the event of its being his Lordship's pleasure that one should be conferred, that I may be informed of what it is to consist.

7. With respect to being present at the installation, it would have been very desirable if I could have waited for instructions for my guidance on that point also; but as the near approach of the ceremony precludes the possibility of that course, I have thought it best so far to yield to the Mahjee's wishes, as to consent to appear as a spectator or visitor, but on the distinct understanding that it is not to be considered as an attendance in any other character, or that I am to bear any part in the ceremony.

8. The considerations urged by Madhoo Rao, as stated in the 4th para. of this letter, are such as I trust will be thought of sufficient weight to warrant my conceding to the wishes of the durbar to the extent stated, and which I hope will meet with the approval of the Right honourable the Governor-general.

(No. 14.)

From the Acting Resident, Indore, to *W. H. Macnaghten*, Esq., Secretary to Government in the Political Department. Fort William; dated 17 January 1834.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council, that the successor of the late Mulhar Rao Holkar was this day publicly installed under the style and title of Maharaja Martund Rao Holkar.

I have, &c.

Indore, 17 January 1834.

(signed) *T. Robinson*,
Acting Resident.

EXTRACT Letter from the Deputy Secretary to Government to the Officiating Resident at Indore; dated 6 February 1834.

Para. 1. I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the dates noted in the margin, on Indore affairs, and to inform you in reply, that your proceedings, as reported in them, are entirely approved.

10 January.
11 "
17 "

EXTRACT Letter from the Acting Resident at Indore to the Secretary to Government, Fort St. George; dated 4 February 1834.

Para. 1. I LOSE no time in transmitting, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, the accompanying copy of a letter, with translation of its enclosures, received by express from Captain Sandys, announcing the forcible release of Hurree Holkar from confinement by an armed party, consisting of 400 or 500 men.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT Letter from Assistant to the Resident, Indore, on express service, to the Acting Resident, Indore; dated Mundlasur, 3 February 1834, quarter past 11, a. m.

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I HAVE the honour to report a successful attempt having been last night made on the fort of Myhaisur, by a party consisting of some four or five hundred armed men, the result of which has been the release of Hurree Holkar from confinement, and his having been proclaimed in the ancient capital head of the Indore state.

EXTRACT Letter from Acting Resident, Indore, to Secretary to Governor-general, Fort St. George; dated 10 February (No. 23) 1834

1. IN my last letter under date the 4th instant, I had the honour to communicate, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, the release of Hurree Holkar from imprisonment by an armed body of his adherents, and that the Indore authorities had detached a strong party of troops for his coercion.

2. No event of consequence having occurred in the interim, I have refrained from occupying his Lordship's time with unimportant details of the measures pursued by the contending parties for the attainment of their respective objects. The partisans of Hurree Holkar now amount to about 1,500 men, and their numbers are daily increasing; they occupy the fort and town of Meheysur, whence no attempt has yet been made to dislodge them.

* * * * *

6. From the moment that accounts were received of the liberation of Hurree Holkar up to the present time, I have been incessantly importuned by the Indore authorities to interpose the aid of our troops in support of the existing arrangement on the ground of the adoption being legal and consonant to usage, and that we are bound by treaty to preserve the internal tranquillity of the state. To these appeals and remonstrances I have usually replied, that with regard to the legality of the adoption or its consonance to usage, considerable doubts were entertained, but that however this might be, there was unequivocal proof of the unpopularity of the measures; that the British Government had at all times been indisposed to interfere with its allied states in questions of internal arrangement; had given no pledge on the present occasion to support any particular party, and could not be expected to incur the odium of upholding an act which, whether right or wrong, was evidently opposed to the general voice of the community concerned; that the arrangement was their own, and they must take the consequences.

* * * * *

8. I shall not fail to report, for his Lordship's information, such occurrences as may appear worthy of note in the progress of the present struggle; in the meantime it may be proper to state the impression I entertain of the line of conduct which I should observe towards each of the contending parties, in order that it may receive his Lordship's confirmation if right, or correction if wrong. It appears to me, that whilst my duty requires that I should carefully abstain from lending any active support to either party, it will be right to continue the usual intercourse with the existing authorities so long as they may be able to maintain their present position, but that in the event of Hurree Holkar's succeeding in subverting their authority and establishing his own ascendancy, it will then be proper to consider him as the sovereign of the Holkar state, and to admit his claim to the same relations with the British Government as subsisted during the lifetime of his cousin, the late Mulhar Rao Holkar.

To Captain *T. Robinson*, Acting Resident at Indore.

Sir,

I AM directed by his Excellency the Right honourable the Governor-general to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters dated the 4th and 10th ultimo, on the subject of Hurree Holkar's movements.

2. In reply, I am desired to acquaint you that the view which you have taken as to the course of proceeding you should adopt in the present crisis, as expressed in the 8th para. of your letter of the last-mentioned date, appears to

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1833, 1834.

his Lordship to be correct, namely, that it will be right to continue the usual intercourse with the existing authorities so long as they may be able to maintain their present position, but that in the event of Hurree Holkar's succeeding in subverting their authority and establishing his own ascendancy, it will then be proper to consider him as the sovereign of the Holkar state, and to admit his claim to the same relations with the British Government as subsisted during the lifetime of his cousin, the late Mulhar Rao Holkar.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. H. Macnaghten.*

Bangalore, 5 March 1834.

Secretary to Governor-general.

EXTRACT Letter from Acting Resident, Indore, to Secretary to the Governor-general, Fort St. George; dated 15 February (No. 26) 1834.

1. WITH reference to the 8th para. of my letter, under date the 10th instant, I have the honour to report, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, such further particulars as have come to my knowledge regarding the existing dissensions in the Holkar family.

2. It appears that of the body of troops sent to oppose Hurree Holkar (amounting to about 1,000 men of all ranks), the greater portion have, as I thought not improbable, joined his standard.

* * * * *

4. The momentary alarm occasioned by the receipt of this intelligence has induced the Indore authorities to depute two of their most confidential advisers to confer with Hurree Holkar, and they set out for that purpose two days ago, but of the nature of the propositions with which they have been entrusted I have not been informed; it seems probable, however, that Hurree Holkar will now be little inclined to listen to any terms short of the possession of the guddee, after the unequivocal proofs which he is daily receiving of the popularity of his cause.

5. On the other hand, the Mahjee and her advisers seem by no means disposed to relinquish the struggle, nor are they yet reduced to that condition which should render it hopeless; the troops who have seceded do not amount to more than an eighth part of the military force of the state; and although it is supposed that the generality are not less inimical to the Mahjee's rule than those who have deserted her, they have not yet openly declared their intentions; and should any considerable delay occur in doing so, the rapid introduction into their ranks of foreign mercenaries, which is the course of policy her Highness is pursuing, may very possibly turn the tide in her favour.

EXTRACT Letter from Acting Resident, Indore, to the Secretary to Governor-general, Fort St. George; dated 22 February (No. 30) 1834.

1. IN continuation of the subject of Indore affairs, I have the honour to communicate, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, the further occurrences which have taken place since the date of my last report.

2. It appears that the deputation sent from this durbar to confer with Hurree Holkar had been refused a personal interview; they were informed, in reply to their application for admission, that Hurree Holkar would receive any message which they might have to deliver through the medium of persons to be nominated for the purpose, and that an answer would be returned through the same channel, but that he declined admitting them to his own presence.

* * * * *

4. The reply of Hurree Holkar seems to be considered as an unqualified refusal to treat with the existing authorities on any terms, and message after message was immediately sent to me by the Mahjee, and by Gotuma Bae, entreating that I would instantly repair to the palace for their protection; that the city was a scene of tumult and disorder, the inhabitants deserting it in fear of their lives; the mutinous soldiery quarrelling among themselves, and threatening

ening every species of insult and outrage unless their arrears of pay were immediately liquidated.

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5. Thinking this a favourable opportunity to interpose with effect for the purpose of putting an end to the present commotions, I lost no time in repairing to the palace, accompanied by Captain Johnston. I had for some days past, through the medium of her confidential servants, advised the Mahjee to relinquish a struggle which had already proved so injurious to the country, and which it was evident must ultimately terminate in her defeat; this, however, she could not be prevailed upon to believe; I now told her plainly that the best thing she could do, in her present circumstances, if she wished to consult either her own or Gotuma Bacc's real interests, or to prevent an unnecessary effusion of blood, was to write to Hurree Holkar, and invite him to assume the place of her late son, being satisfied, from all that I had heard and observed, that it was the only course she could pursue to repair the error she had committed, in adopting the son of Bapoo Holkar.

* * * * *

6. After a lengthened discussion, during which it was attempted to be argued that the British Government had approved of the existing arrangement, and were bound by good faith to uphold it, the conversation was at last terminated by the Mahjee's signifying her consent to the course which I had suggested, provided I would also write to Hurree Holkar, who, she said, would never forgive her for what had passed. This was readily agreed to on my part, and I addressed a letter to Hurree Holkar.

EXTRACT Letter from Acting Resident, Indore, to Secretary to Governor-general, Fort St. George; dated 28 February (No. 32) 1834.

3. It is a singular fact, that since the period of Hurree Holkar's liberation not the slightest opposition has at any time been offered to his authority beyond the precincts of the city of Indore itself; on the contrary, all have been eager to recognise it; his thanas have gradually been established in all the surrounding villages, with the entire acquiescence of all the local authorities, and he is considered, at this moment, to all intents and purposes the sovereign of the Holkar state; it is now quite manifest that his presence at Indore is all that is wanting to stem the tide of anarchy which has prevailed for the last three weeks.

EXTRACT Letter from Acting Resident, Indore, to Secretary to the Governor-general, Fort St. George; dated 18 March (No. 38) 1834.

1. I HAVE much satisfaction in announcing, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, the prospect of returning tranquillity to this state by the arrival of Hurree Holkar at Indore, and his assumption of the sovereignty amidst the acclamations of all classes of the community.

EXTRACT Letter from the Resident at Indore to Secretary to the Governor-general, Neilgherry Hills; dated 17 April (No. 4) 1834.

1. I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, that Maharaja Hurree Rao Holkar was installed to-day, with the customary ceremonies, on the guddee of this state, on which occasion I attended, together with the gentlemen attached to the Residency.

2. The early period fixed upon by the Maharaja for his installation prevented my applying to the Right honourable the Governor-general previous to this ceremony, as I should wish to have done, for permission to confer a khellaut on his Highness, and I was consequently under the necessity of stating (privately) my inability to comply with his expectation in this respect; but at the same time I intimated my intention of applying for such permission to his Lordship, who, in consideration of the intimate connexion existing between the British Government and this state, and of the anxious wish of the Maharaja on this point, will authorize me, I respectfully hope, to confer a khellaut on Hurree Rao Holkar.

Holkar Succession,
1833, 1834.

To *J. Bar*, Esq., Resident at Indore.

Sir,

I AM directed by his Excellency the Right honourable the Governor-general to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from you, reporting that Maharaja Hurree Rao Holkar has been installed on the Indore throne, and requesting permission to confer a khelat of investiture on his Highness.

2. In reply, I am directed to acquaint you that his Lordship has been pleased to sanction the measure suggested by you; but it is expected that Hurree Holkar will present a nuzzer on the occasion, equivalent in value to the dress of honour conferred upon him.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. H. Macnaghten*,
Secretary to the Governor-general.

Ootacamund, 13 May 1834.

Holkar Succession, 1841–1843.

Holkar Succession,
1841–1843.

EXTRACT Political Letter from Fort William; dated 15 September 1841, No. 50.

P. 1841.
Cons. 5 April.
No. 34, 35 and 48.
Cons. 19 April,
No. 62.
List, No. 71.

Para. 107. THE Resident having drawn our attention to the delicate state of Hurree Rao Holkar's health with a view to the consideration of the question of succession to the possessions of the family in the event of his Highness' death, it was observed, in reply, that the Maharaja's favourite wife, Ghainah Bae, being reported to be far advanced in gestation, we deemed it inexpedient to enter on the deliberation of the matter, to which our attention was invited by Sir Claude Wade, till the issue of her pregnancy should be known, and that under any circumstances we should wish, as far as practicable, to be guided by the usages of the Holkar family in deciding upon the claims of the competitors to the chiefship. It was moreover stated, that if any brief delay should occur in settling the question, it might be presumed that, under the guidance of the Resident, the affairs of the principality could be conducted without difficulty or embarrassment by the existing ministry.

108. By subsequent advices from Indore, we learned that a perceptible change for the better had taken place in the Maharaja's health and appearance.

109. In our next quarterly general letter, we shall be able to lay before your honourable Court the details of the proceedings that have now terminated in the adoption by Hurree Rao Holkar, of Kundajee, son of a Bapitjee, a youth of his own tribe, and to the recognition of that adoption by the British Government.

EXTRACT Political Letter from the Government of India; dated the
22d December 1841.

Para. 107 to 109,
Letter from the
Governor-general
in Council, dated
15 Sept. 1841,
No. 50.

P. 1841.
Cons. 12 July.
No. 45 to 47.
Cons. 19 July,
No. 48 to 51.
Cons. 30 August,
No. 56 to 59.
List, No. 61.

94. YOUR honourable Court will learn from the papers marginally referred to the particulars of the discussions which were held by the Resident with Maharaja Hurree Rao Holkar, with a view to urge his Highness to make a provision for the eventual succession to his possessions, and which, as you have been already apprized, led to the adoption by the Maharaja, as his heir, of Khundi Rao, a son of Bapujee Holkar. Feeling satisfied that, under all the circumstances of the case, the selection in question was a proper one, we felt no hesitation in signifying to his Highness our recognition of the election made by him, and we at the same time expressed our approbation of the proceedings of Sir Claude Wade in the matter.

Fort William, Foreign Department, 21 November (No. 67) 1843.

Holkar Succession,
1841-1843.

To the Honourable the Secret Committee of the Honourable the Court of Directors.

Honourable Sirs,

THE despatches now forwarded will put your honourable Committee in possession of the events which have lately occurred at Indore, of the demise of Hurree Rao Holkar, and the measures we have deemed it expedient to take with regard to the succession and the future management of the state.

2. Your honourable Court will observe that various attempts were made by the Resident to induce Hurree Rao Holkar, during his last severe illness, to make some arrangement for the due settlement of his affairs, but that from his capricious and eccentric temperament, aggravated by disease, the Maharaja steadily refused compliance with the suggestions addressed to him. In consequence of the disposition thus evinced by the Maharaja, the Resident deemed it expedient, in the absence of any experienced minister, to communicate with the Mahee Sahib, who, from her near relation to the state, and intimate acquaintance with its concerns, as well as the confidence placed in her by the Holkar family and the people generally, appeared best fitted to consult with as to the most desirable course to be adopted to prevent the bad effect likely to result from a continuance of the then disordered state of affairs at Indore.

3. It is gratifying to find that the Mahee and all parties invited and desired our Resident's co-operation and advice at this crisis, and that when Holkar's recovery appeared to be hopeless, the several officers at the head of departments agreed to look only to Maheejee and the Resident for their instructions and orders.

4. As soon as intelligence was brought to the Resident of the demise of Hurree Rao, he proceeded to the durbar, and there, in the name of the British Government, recognised as the successor to the Indore state Kundee Rao Holkar, the son of Santajee Holkar, uncle of Hurree Rao, who was adopted by the late Maharaja in 1841, and whose adoption was recognised in that year by the British Government.

5. Kundee Rao was to have been formally installed on the 13th instant.

6. The Resident referring to the peculiar nature of your relations with the Holkar state, by which our interference is not alone confined to its protection from external violence, but extends also to its preservation from internal disorder, recommended that the Resident should have a positive, and not only a nominal responsibility in the management of the government, and with this view, that he, in conjunction with the Mahee Sahib, should proceed to form a commission of regency, retaining the present incumbents in their respective offices, or employing others, as might be found expedient and advisable.

7. We informed the Resident in reply, that if it were found impossible to secure the object of preserving the state from internal disorders during Hindee Rao's minority, otherwise than by the junction of the Resident with the Mahjee in the office of regent, we must, of course, acquiesce in the arrangement, but that we considered it far preferable to effect the desired purpose by the *de facto*, yet not too prominent influence of the British minister, rather than his actual association in the ministry.

8. Your honourable Committee will perceive, that before the instructions above alluded to had reached the Resident, that officer had, in consequence of the repeated and urgent invitations of the Mahee Sahib and principal officers of the state, consented to conduct the affairs of government in concert with the Mahee, and that he had every confidence of being able to discharge the increased duty thereby imposed upon him to the satisfaction and advantage of the state.

9. Under these circumstances, we deemed it advisable to acquiesce in the arrangements entered into by the Resident.

We have, &c.

(signed) *Ellenborough.*
W. W. Bird.
W. Casement.

Fort William, 21 November 1843.

Holkar Succession,
1841-1843.

For 1843,
Cons. 5 April,
No. 90 & 91.
Cons. 19 April,
No. 125 & 126.
List, No. 41.

EXTRACT Foreign Letter from Fort William; dated 12 February 1844. No. 1.

Para. 99. THESE documents contain some account of the mental state of health of Maharaja Hurree Rao Holkar, and furnish information regarding the circumstances connected with the adoption of the boy named Kandè Rao as his Highness's successor. A genealogical statement of the Holkar family will also be found among the papers referred to.

EXTRACT Fort William, Political Consultation of the 5th April 1841.

No. 34.

(No. 205, of 1841.)

From Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, c. b., Resident at Indore, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William; dated 5 March 1841.

Sir,

Confidential
Department.

HAVING proceeded yesterday to pay a visit to his Highness the Maharaja, on my return to the Residency, after a short tour which I have been making in the south-western part of the territory subject to my control, I was surprised to observe that he was suffering severely from an attack of the disorder to which he is occasionally liable. His spirits seemed to be affected in an equal degree with his body. He spoke despondingly of his own state of health; and his weak and emaciated appearance impressed me, as well as Lieut.-colonel Borthwick, who accompanied me in the interview, with a strong conviction of his precarious situation.

2. In the early part of January last, when I visited him for the purpose of introducing Brigadier Fearon, on assuming charge of the Mhow Field Force, he appeared to be in his usual state of health and spirits, and conducted us over his palace. Alluding to an intention, which he had for some time past expressed, of visiting the shrine of his uncle, Jeswunt Rao Holkar, at Bauphora, which I encouraged, from the belief that exercise and change of air would tend to break those habits of lethargy which his long confinement and sedentary mode of life have induced, he said that he had made preparations for the journey; but a return of some slight symptom of his dysenteric affection, and the attempts of his priests to dissuade him, had combined to make him suspend them. Anxious, however, to overcome their objections, I partially succeeded, and he promised to meet me at Depalpur, to make a short tour with me in his territory, and I met him there accordingly; but after staying there a few days, he returned again to Indore, without apparently having derived that benefit from the excursion which I had hoped it would produce.

3. From the reports of my predecessors, the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council will be aware that similar attacks, to which his Highness has been subject, have been a cause of apprehension to them; and although I would hope that he may rally from the present one, as he has hitherto done, I cannot but advert to the increasing danger of their repetition at his time of life.

4. It is my intention to direct Dr. Bruce, who has attended him on previous occasions, to visit the Maharaja, and give me a report of the actual state of his health, from which I shall be able to judge what grounds there are for apprehension, and communicate the result for the information of his Lordship in Council.

5. I cannot discover, from the correspondence of my predecessors, that any report has been made by them regarding the prospects of a successor to the throne in the possible event of his Highness' demise; a subject which, as it will probably have to engage the serious consideration of Government, I deem it my duty to call its attention to the fact of there being no direct heir, the son to whom one of his wives gave birth having died in infancy some time before my arrival. His favourite wife, Ghainah Bae, is said to be far advanced in pregnancy, and is now at Mahesir awaiting her confinement; should she be delivered of a son, he will of course be the heir; failing, however, such an issue, it will become a question for the British Government to decide who should succeed to the Holkar state.

6. The principle of adoption having been recognised in almost every state in Malwa, both before and since the introduction of the British Supremacy, and recently allowed in the Holkar state in the case of Matund Rao, it would be difficult to set it aside in the supposed event of a lapse of the present Government

ment without an heir, although the want of success which is generally admitted to have attended the desire of the British Government to maintain the integrity of the native governments, from the incapacity of those in whom the succession has been continued, should demand such a measure.

7. In the event of the system of adoption being permitted to continue, the choice would rest, in my opinion, between Matund Rao, who is now living at Poona, and Raja Bhao, the Maharaja's son-in-law, the only male relation whom his Highness has, and of whose helping hand and society amidst his distresses and infirmities, as he emphatically observed to me in one of my early visits to him, some of the persons about his court had cruelly endeavoured to deprive him, after the departure of Mr. Bax. The popular voice would, I think it likely, be in favour of Matund Rao, whose deposition is considered by many parties neither to have conduced to the good government of the Holkar state, nor to have been an act of strict justice; but the Maharaja, who has no friendly feelings towards him, it may be presumed, would strongly object to adopt one whom he regards as the person who kept him out of his inheritance.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. M. Wade,*
Resident.

Indore Residency, 5th March 1841.

Ordered, That the following reply be returned to the above.

(No. 858.)

From *T. H. Maddock*, Esquire, Secretary to the Government of India, to Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, c. b., Resident at Indore; dated 5 April 1841.

No. 35.

Sir,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th ultimo, in which you draw the attention of the Governor-general in Council to the delicate state of Hurree Rao Holkar's health, with a view to considering the question of succession to the possessions of the family in case of his Highness' death.

2. As it is stated in the 5th paragraph of your letter, that the Maharaja's favourite wife, Ghainah Bae, is far advanced in pregnancy, his Lordship in Council would hardly think it necessary to enter on the question submitted by you till the issue of her pregnancy shall be known; and under any circumstances, his Lordship in Council would wish as far as possible to be guided by the usages of the Holkar family, in deciding upon the claims of the competitors to the chiefship; and if any brief delay should occur in settling the question, it may be presumed that under your guidance the affairs of the principality could be conducted without difficulty or embarrassment by the existing ministry.

I have, &c.

(signed) *T. H. Maddock,*
Sec. to the Govt. of India.

Fort William, 5 April 1841.

(No. 266, of 1841.)

From Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, c. b., Resident at Indore, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William; dated 19 March 1841.

No. 48.

Sir,

IN continuation of my letter of the 5th instant, regarding the state of the Maharaja's health, I am happy to report, for the information of Government, that since its despatch it is partially improved, though far from re-established.

2. Agreeably to my request, Dr. Bruce proceeded to visit his Highness, and reports that he found him suffering from chronic disease of the liver, accompanied by its usual effects on the digestive organ, unguarded by long captivity and the lethargic habits which it has induced, the combination of which renders him, as Dr. Bruce says, "a bad life;" but he apprehends no immediate danger, except in the susceptibility of the Maharaja to an aggravation of his malady by the operation of any exciting cause.

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1841-1843.

3. His mode of life is marked by extreme love of indolence; he scarcely ever moves but from one room to another, on the same floor; and such is the difficulty of inducing him to persevere in a consistent course of medicine, diet and exercise, as not only to preclude any chance of the removal, or decided amelioration of his disease, but to leave no favourable prognosis of his recovery, should the inflammatory symptoms be excited or called into action by the irritation of mind or body to which he is liable.

4. I may take the present opportunity of recalling the attention of Government to the fact, that immediately prior to my arrival here, his Highness was labouring under an attack similar to the present, as reported at the time by Lieutenant-colonel Borthwick, and had not recovered from it at the time of my first visit to him. Besides his bodily infirmities, since the departure of Mr. Bax, he was subjected to changes in the administration of his affairs, which had tended in a high degree to humiliate and irritate him. Some time before that gentleman left, Government may be aware, he had succeeded in prevailing on Hurree Rao Holkar to appoint a responsible minister, who was qualified, in Mr. Bax's opinion, to fill the office with satisfaction to the Maharaja, and credit to himself; but no sooner had Mr. Bax quitted the place, than the promising state in which he had left the government was entirely subverted by the artful conduct of a subordinate officer, who, imposing on the weak mind of his Highness a belief that he was supported in the schemes of the British Government and its officers, and terrifying him by false representations of its designs and intentions, virtually usurped the functions and power of the minister.

5. Such a state of affairs had, it may be supposed, the effect of aggravating the attack of illness from which his Highness was labouring on my arrival. In addition to these causes, he was continually harassed and annoyed by the complaints of those who had suffered by the arbitrary violence of the person who had assumed the authority without the responsibility of the acknowledged minister. I deemed it my duty to urge the Maharaja to a consideration of his own affairs, to overcome, if possible, the apathy and indifference to business, which had been a frequent subject of concern to my predecessor.

6. The irresponsible system which had superseded the arrangement of Mr. Bax was likewise not only vexatious and irritating to his Highness himself, but injurious to the credit of the British Government, on the support of which it was alleged to be founded. He attended to my suggestion, and, on calling for an account of his revenues, had the mortification to find that they were in an impoverished and declining state, and that the usurper of the Dewan's office had been defrauding him to a large amount.

7. In the report which I propose to submit on the administration of Holkar's government, as well as that of other states in Malwa, I shall have occasion to enter more at large than is necessary at present on the subject of the changes which have taken place in them since the last reports were made to Government; but I may here observe, that although the Maharaja has remitted half the sum embezzled from him, yet, as he has not yet been able to realise the other, that avarice, which is another predominant feature of his character, added to his bodily infirmities, leads him to dwell with vexation on the losses which he has suffered, and the impositions to which he has been subjected. I have endeavoured to restore matters on the footing originally established by Mr. Bax. It has, however, been discovered that the Dewan is partly implicated in the peculations which have been committed, which tends to aggravate his feelings; and adverting to the tenor of the 10th Article of the Treaty of Mundisore, which declares that the Maharaja is absolute over his own subjects, I feel the necessity of proceeding with caution in the reform of his administration.

I have, &c.

(signed) C. M. Wade, Resident.

Indore Residency, Camp, Rojwassa,
19 March 1841.

EXTRACT Fort William, Political Consultation of the 19th April 1841.

Holkar Succession,
1841-1843.

(No. 319, of 1841.)

From Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, c. n., Resident at Indore, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India; dated Fort William, 3 April 1841.

No. 62.

Sir,

REFERRING to my recent reports respecting the health of Maharaja Hurree Rao Holkar, I have the honour to inform you that, on paying him a visit a few days ago, I was gratified to find that a visible change for the better had taken place in his health and appearance.

Confidential
Department.

2. Brigadier Fearon, who had just arrived here on his return from the duty of inspecting the contingents, on which he had recently been ordered, accompanied me in the visit with his staff, and the Maharaja entered into conversation with every one in a tone of vivacity and good humour, which showed a return of good health.

3. Two days afterwards I was agreeably surprised by receiving an intimation from his Highness, that he intended to visit me at the Residency on the following morning, which he accordingly did, evincing an inclination to exertion which was very satisfactory; but his lethargic habits and aversion to business are so confirmed that, added to his chronic disease, they preclude any reasonable hope of a radical change in his character and pursuits.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. M. Wade*,
Resident.

Indore Residency, 3 April 1841.

EXTRACT Fort William, Political Consultation of the 13th July 1841.

From Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, c. n., Resident at Indore, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William; dated 17 June 1841.

No. 45.

Sir,

I REGRET to report that the health of Maharaja Hari Rao Holkar has become again so much impaired as to be a subject of serious apprehension to his family. Having heard that he was not improving, and that the people about the Court were beginning themselves to anticipate, more than on any former occasion, an early fatal result to his present illness, and to discuss the necessity of urging his Highness to make a provision for the succession to his throne in case of his death, I determined to visit him yesterday evening, accompanied by Captain Trevelyan and Dr. Bruce.

2. We found the Maharaja residing in a garden-house outside the city, where he has been living since the return from Mahasir of the Rani Ghaina Bae, whose pregnancy I reported to Government in my letter of the 5th of March last to your address, and who has since given birth to a female child, thus destroying the hope which had been entertained of the probability of a lineal male heir to the throne. Although he did not appear to me to be in a worse state than on the 5th of March last, when I reported his condition to Government, Dr. Bruce was at once struck with his feeble and attenuated appearance, and observed to me, in expressing his opinion of his alarming state, that he did not think he had long to live, and, to use his own words, "It was time he should put his house in order." I endeavoured to prevail on him to allow the doctor to prescribe for him, as he had done on several former occasions with benefit, but he said that he had no longer any faith in medicines, having tried so many without any permanent effect, and that he now awaited his fate, which he regarded as inevitable. Dr. Bruce thinks that he may linger out for a month, which is also the opinion entertained by his own family.

3. In your letter to my address of the 5th of April last, it is stated that Government did not consider it necessary to enter on the question of the succession to the throne till the issue of Ghaina Bae's expected confinement was known; the only result of which being the birth of a daughter, it is requisite, and would

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certainly be highly satisfactory to me, that Government should favour me with some specific instructions for my guidance in the crisis which may now be said to be impending, and I would solicit their transmission to me with the least possible delay.

4. Conformably with the usages of the Holkar family, the members of the Maharaja's family and the officers of his government are anxious that he should adopt some one to succeed him, and in default of any male relative of the tribe to which his Highness belongs, I hear it is their intention to propose to him that he should nominate Sukoo Bae, his daughter by Herka Bae, and married to Raja Bhao Rhansia, the eldest son of Rewajee Phansia, who would be regent in her name.

5. The only member of the family who seems disposed to support the claims of any other competitor is Gothma Bae, the mother of the late Malhar Rao, who, it is given out, is favourable to Markand Rao, the youth whom she formerly adopted, and who was deposed by the popular voice, as would appear from the reports of the acting Resident for the time; but Government will be aware that he was banished from the country, and agreed to resign all claim to the throne on condition of receiving a pension of 500 rupees per mensem; to recall him, therefore, would probably revive those scenes of disturbance of which his adoption, and the intrigues which took place subsequent to his deposition, were the cause; and as we are responsible, by the 7th Article of the Treaty of Mandisor, to maintain the internal tranquillity of the Holkar state, as well as to defend it against foreign enemies, it is for the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council to consider how far any recognition of his pretensions might tend to encourage that very state of affairs which it is our duty and interest to prevent.

6. Sukao Bae, the wife of Raja Bhao, is the daughter of a concubine, as you will perceive from a list of the members of the Holkar family, which I forwarded last year to Mr. Bayley, Deputy Secretary to Government in your department; but succession in the illegitimate branch would appear, from the history of the family, to be the order in which it has commonly run. The mode in which it is proposed to provide for the future government of the country would be the same as that which existed in the time of Alio Bae, in whose reign the Holkar state is acknowledged to have been in its most flourishing condition, and whose memory is still cherished by the people as strongly as represented by Sir John Malcolm in his Report on Central India.

7. If the infant daughter of his Highness Hari Rao Holkar, by his wife, Ghaina Bae, be nominated to succeed him, a regency will still be necessary, and I would therefore wish to know what course Government would desire me to follow with reference to the actual state of affairs. In the event of the choice falling on Sickoo Bae, the regency would be vested in one who is her natural protector, and as qualified to fill that office as any one about a Court which has no chiefs from which to choose but himself. In the other event, the government of the country could not, I think, be conducted with any prospect of tranquillity without the appointment of a commission of regency: to ensure a just and prosperous execution of whose duties it would, I am of opinion, become necessary that the Resident should be appointed a member of it, and thereby produce a direct interference of our authority, which Government may not be disposed to promote.

8. Should the event of the Maharaja's death occur before I can receive the orders of Government, which I hope, however, may not be the case, it will, of course, be my duty to use every endeavour on my part to conduct the affairs of the Government in concert and communication with its officers; but that I should do so without difficulty is more than can reasonably be expected, considering the divided interests of the different members of the family, the intrigues in which they are, no doubt, already engaged to carry out their views and wishes, and the injury which was done to the stability of the administration and authority of the Maharaja on the departure of Mr. Bax, in the assumption, by an officer of the Court, of the power and functions, without the responsibility, of the Dewan, and the subsequent discovery of the Dewan's implication with him in the embezzlement of the revenue, which led to the dismissal of the former and the suspension of the latter from his office, as reported in my letter to your address of the 19th of March last.

9. I have to add, in conclusion, that I propose calling on the Maharaja to-morrow, with Captain Trevelyan, and shall, in the course of my interview, endeavour

endeavour to elicit from him, without exciting alarm, if possible, a better knowledge of his views and sentiments with regard to the probable effects of his demise on the Government of his country, and the characters and intentions of those by whom he is surrounded, in order that, as Government appears to look to my personal exertions to prevent any violent disturbance, I may be enabled to adopt such measures as may be absolutely necessary to provide for the safe administration of the Government, founded on the wishes of the ruling chief, and on the possible necessity of exercising the discretion and acquitting myself of the responsibility which Government has imposed on me, until I can be favoured with its own views and wishes.

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I have, &c.

Indore Residency, 17 June 1841.

(signed) C. M. Wade,
Resident.

NAMES of the Members of his Highness Hurree Rao Holkar's Family, Relations and Confidential Servants who remain about his person, and exercise an influence in the Government.

Reigning Prince:—His Highness *Hurree Rao Holkar*, son of Etajee Holkar, brother of Jesnent Rao Etajee, was trodden to death by an elephant at Poonah by order of Bajee Rao; the Ex-Peshwa has no male heir.

Wives and other near Relations:—Her Highness *Gunah Bae*, who was married to the Maharaja in Sumbat 1891. Her father and a brother, in consequence of having fallen under his Highness's displeasure, are now in confinement in Cholee Mahasir; and another, Gobind Rao, has command of a paejah or body of household troops at that place.

Keisrah Bae, widow of the late Jeswant Rao, and mother of Malhar Rao Holkar; she is generally designated the Majee, but in all official papers bears the name of Kishnaje.

Gotmah Bae, better known as *Taice Saheb*, widow of Mulhar Rao Holkar, and has a daughter named Bumajee Gadoo, formerly resident at Shujawalpoor, from whence she was sent for by the minister, Tantya Jog, and married to the late Maharaja in Sumbat 1881.

Heerka Baice, Khamas, a concubine, who was with the present Maharaja when in confinement at Mahesir.

Sukoo Bae, daughter of his Highness by Herka Bae, and married to Raja Bhao Phunsia, the eldest son of Rewajee Phunsia.

Maina Bae, sister of his present Highness, and married to Gobind Rao, by whom she has two children.

Bheenia Bae, sister of the late Mulhar Rao, and daughter of Jeswant Rao by Lara Bae, married to Gobind Boleah, and has an adopted son, called Chinnoh Appa Boleah.

Bhugwant Rao Holkar, married to a younger sister of Gotmah Bae, by whom he has a daughter, married to Chinnah Appa Boleah.

Confidential Servants:—*Bala Naig*, chief officer in waiting on his Highness, in charge of the deadhie, was with the Maharaja at Mahesir, and enjoys his particular confidence.

Rao Kmajee, Duffadar, appointed at the recommendation of Bala Naig.

Soorat Sing Khas-bardar, came with his Highness from Mahesir, and was promoted to the rank of Jemadar on the occasion of the attack made on the palace by Khundoo Pundit in Sumbat.

Gunja-deen Khas-bardar, was appointed Jemadar at Mahesir.

Mho Kun and *Guneish*, Duffadars of the length of service as Soorat Sing and Gunga-deen.

Naoo Khan, Jemadar, of Forrashes, of long standing in his appointment, from which he was removed by Tantya Jog, and afterwards restored and promoted by his Highness on the occasion of a son being born to the latter, who died an infant.

Taij Geer Gossain, an old servant, appointed by Gotmah Bae as her gooroo after the death of Mulhar Rao.

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Khoda Buksh Komwar, came with the Maharaja from Maheisir.

Gopal Naig, in attendance for many years on the Majee.

Bulwant Rao and *Madhoo Rao*; the former at Rampoorah, the other in attendance at the palace.

Issree Pershamd, son of the Bukshee, the head of the establishment of domestic servants, amounting in number to 140, who have lately been placed under the command of Bala Naig.

(signed) *C. M. Wade*, Resident.

Indore Residency, 9 September 1840.

OFFICERS of his Highness's Court.

Abbajee Bulal, Minister.

Missar Bhowanie, Dean Bukshee.

Narrain Rao Baha Palsegur, an old officer, whose office is to attach the seal of state to all papers, but which is performed by a deputy, Sham Rao, who is always in attendance at Court.

Bulwant Rao, Furnawees, a youth; his ancestor held the appointment which he now does in the service of the Peshwa. He has a mutasaddie attached to every department.

Trimuck Rao, Baba, Furnawees, a private secretary and accountant attendant on his Highness, who has also the management of all the villages set apart for his Highness's personal expenses.

Jeswant Rao, Roynath, an old servant, whose office is performed by a deputy named Sookha Raur.

Imrat Rao, Roynath, came with the Maharaja from Mahesir, and succeeded to his brother Dinkar Rao's appointment on the death of the latter; was removed by the Bukshee from his official functions, but attends the court.

Rogooleah, Khabar, Nawees, was suspended from his situation by the Maharaja on his accession to the throne, but continues his attendance at court.

Baba Fota, Nawees, an old servant and confidential secretary, employed in keeping the accounts of the treasury.

Tantya Fota, Nawees, was removed from his situation by the father of Raja Bhow, Phanseea, but has since been restored, and together with the Bukshee has exercised charge of the revenues.

Najhooba, Sikha Nawees, or sealer of the records.

Ram Krishaw, Bhyroo, a youth; Sibra Nawees or keeper of the descriptive rolls of the Sillahdars, and whose office is performed by a deputy, viz., Bulwant Rao.

Ramdgai, Paymaster of Sillahdars, and affixes the Persian seal to all papers connected with the troops, &c.

Sheo Ram Doss, Moonshee, an old servant, and was employed in the time of the Phansiahs.

Ram Rao, Karkaon, the deputy of Bulwant Rao, Furnawees, and has charge of all official papers and documents connected with the Silladars.

(signed) *C. M. Wade*, Resident.

Indore Residency, 10 September 1840.

No. 46.

(No. 659, of 1841.)

From Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, c. b., Resident at Indore, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William; dated 25 June 1841.

Sir,

Secret Department.

AGREEABLY to the intention announced in the 9th paragraph of my letter to your address of the 17th instant, I proceeded, on the 19th instant, in company with Captain Trevelyan, to pay a visit to the Maharaja, whom we found slightly better than he was on the occasion of my former visit. I had intimated my wish that the interview should be of a private nature, in consequence of which, as soon as we had taken our seats, the persons usually in attendance about his Highness retired, with the exception of his son-in-law, Raja Bhow, whom he directed to remain.

2. Impressed

2. Impressed with the delicacy of the subject on which I was about to communicate, in its evident tendency to remind the Maharaja of his precarious state of health, to the possibility of an aggravation of his illness, I considered that I could not lead him in a more suitable manner to a just contemplation of his situation than by adverting to the disappointment which had been experienced by his friends and subjects, and in which I had no doubt my own government would participate, in the Ram Ghainah Bae having been delivered of a daughter; that there was no subject to which people were more sensitively alive than their posterity, and that it was one of special importance to a ruler who had not only the interests of his own family to consult, but also those of his country; that he was suffering at present from a severe recurrence of his complaint, from which I trusted that he would recover, as he had done before; but that as life was in the hands of God, he should reflect on the concerns of his government, and that if he had anything to impart to me with respect to the future conduct of his affairs, I should be happy to listen, and be of any use to him that I could in preserving that tranquillity and stability which had happily prevailed for some time past in the increasing good order and prosperity of his country.

3. The Maharaja seemed to view the subject quite recklessly, and replied that he had nothing to say; that he owed everything to the British Government, and looked to it to do whatever it pleased; that I knew the state of his affairs, and could judge that which it might be best to do. These vague and indefinite expressions were not satisfactory, and I endeavoured to obtain a more decided indication of his views and sentiments, by reiterating the general tenor of my former observations; but his replies were still substantially to the same effect, showing symptoms of the hereditary eccentricity of his family, combined with a wiliness of manner as if determined to elude close inquiry into a subject about which he was either indifferent or reluctant to avow his real opinions. He repeatedly said that he was alone in the world; that nobody cared for him, and once or twice desired me to consult Rajah Bhow. I said he was mistaken; that he had many friends who were interested in all that concerned him, among whom I hoped he regarded me, and that it would be more gratifying if he would speak for himself. He assented to the truth of my observation, but rambled from the point by referring to Amir Khan and Ghafur Khan, long since dead, who, he said, might be summoned, and would be able to manage matters efficiently. He also talked of Rao Kenah Bae, the widow of Tantia Jagh, saying that she was a clever woman, and had plenty of money. Seeing from his manner that he was not in a mood to give his serious attention to the discussion in which I wished to engage him, I shortly afterwards took my leave, determining to send Captain Trevelyan to him on the following day, and requesting that the Maharaja would send Raja Bhow to me next morning, in order that I might awaken his Highness, through him also, to a proper sense of the state of his affairs, with a view to establish the administration of them in such a manner as to facilitate my endeavours to ensure tranquillity in the event of his demise.

4. I have already reported to Government the subversion, after his departure, of the ministry established during the time of Mr. Bax; the manner in which it affected the Maharaja personally, and the discontent which it created in the minds of his subjects. On my arrival here I found that there was a general confusion of the different officers of the state; the person who had usurped the authority of the Dewan was a man of the name of Bowanidin, for an account of whom I refer you to the 5th paragraph of a letter from my predecessor to Government, dated the 27th of June 1834. Notwithstanding his objectionable character, he was afterwards appointed, though how or when, the correspondence of my office does not show, to the situation of Bukshi; not contented with which, he took advantage of the departure of Mr. Bax, and when there was no officer in charge of the Residency present at Indore, to pursue a course of corruption and violence subversive, not only of the authority of the Dewan, but of the Maharaja himself.

5. After I had assumed charge of my appointment, I considered it my duty to point out to his Highness the changes which had occurred in the interim, and the necessity, on his part, of maintaining the respectability of the minister; that there was now no one with whom I could communicate possessing the influence and authority which should belong to the office; that it had been the particular object of my predecessor to establish and preserve its integrity, and

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that the encroachment of any officer on the functions of another tended to derange the due discharge of the business of the state, to destroy the responsibility which should belong to the minister, and to revive that laxity and disorder in his administration which had compelled Government, on a former occasion, to announce to him that if he did not appoint an efficient minister within a given time, it would feel itself bound to take the management of the country into its own hands.

6. His Highness expressed himself obliged to me for drawing his attention to the subject; admitted the force of my objections; complained of the dishonesty of his servants, who would render him no account of the state of his revenues and expenditure; said that he would restore matters to their original footing; and declared, at the same time, his determination to inquire personally into the manner in which each of his officers had acquitted themselves of their trust.

7. The result of the inquiry instituted by the Maharaja, in which he took a more active interest than would appear to have generally marked his character in the conduct of his government, was, as I have already had occasion to report, the discovery of an embezzlement of the revenues by the Bukshi, and arbitrary exactions from the Amils, to the amount of rupees two lacs, which had caused a general outcry against his oppressions, and a deficiency of funds to meet the demands of the troops (who were several months in arrears), which were only satisfied by a prompt payment from his Highness' own treasury. It appeared, besides, that he had, on various false pretexes, removed from their situations old and faithful servants of the state, replacing them by creatures of his own, in order to make them the instruments of his own rapacity, and had been in the habit of assuming to himself, without any reference to the Maharaja, such districts as he thought would prove most profitable to his own interests.

8. The ostensible minister, Appabelal, who from the short intercourse which I had with him seemed to me to verify the opinion given of him by Mr. Bax, and to be one with whom, from the apparent cordiality of his good-will towards our Government, I should have had satisfaction in acting, was found to have been made the dupe of the Bukshi, and to have been partly implicated in his peculations. I have before observed the detection of these fraudulent practices, which were so clearly proved, even by their own admission, as to render it impossible for me to support the authors of them; and the entire abuse of confidence which they evinced filled the Maharaja with the keenest feelings of indignation, which led to the minister being suspended from office, and restraint being put on him, as well as the Bukshi, to compel them to refund the amount of his Highness' just claims on them.

9. During these investigations, that he might not make a hasty selection which he might hereafter have occasion to regret, and in the hope that some extenuating circumstances might arise to justify the restoration of the Dewan to office, the flagrant conduct of the Bukshi rendering his re-admission quite out of the question, his Highness was induced, by my advice, to keep the office open; but finding that his faith in his honesty was not to be restored, and that he was totally disinclined to re-appoint him, I considered that the time had come, with reference to the Maharaja's state of health, when the measure of re-constructing the ministry could no longer be postponed, and it was with this view that I wished for the attendance of Raja Bhow, to whom, in the presence of Captain Trevelyan, having explained my object in sending for him, I requested that officer to accompany him to the Court, with a message from me to the following effect: "That for a considerable time past there had, as his Highness was well aware, been no responsible minister; that although, pending the inquiries in which he had been engaged for the settlement of his accounts, without pressing the immediate necessity of filling that appointment, I had allowed of its duties being discharged by a deputy, the Maharaja could not but be sensible that an officer so important to the efficiency of his government could not remain any longer in abeyance, and that it therefore became necessary that he should appoint a minister without delay; that if the offence of the person who formerly held the office was, in his opinion, such as to preclude the possibility of his employment, though his misconduct was rather imputable to the faults of others than himself, yet, as the British Government had a direct interest in the office of Dewan being efficiently filled, and I could not, consistently with my responsibility to it, permit the due administration of the affairs of his state to be endangered

endangered in the possible event of his demise, from the want of a proper person with whom I could communicate and concert measures for the security of peace and good order, I begged that he would give the subject that serious consideration which its importance now imperatively demanded, and expressed a hope that he would give me his final decision in the course of a day or two, at the expiration of which, if he still deferred nominating a minister, it would become my duty to name for his approval such a person as I considered eligible; that there were also other important situations which, in a new distribution of officers which his Highness had recently made, in order to introduce a more systematic and efficient control in the administration of his government both in its civil and military departments, remained vacant; to the nomination of persons to which I also begged his attention, viz., the charge of the Adawlut, the command of the pajah or troops of the household, as well as that of the infantry and artillery; that I had also observed with regret the circumstance of some of his Highness' officers holding a plurality of appointments; that he had already seen the impolicy of such a system, and that it was expedient to confine every one as much as possible to his prescribed duties."

10. Captain Trevelyan, in reporting to me the result of his visit, stated that the Maharaja appeared to be in better health and spirits than when we had seen him together, and to be interested and excited in the subject of the conversation as it proceeded. He delivered the substance of my communication, but, owing to a greater readiness on the part of the Maharaja to adopt my suggestions than he expected, he did not find it necessary to urge them so earnestly as I had thought, from the tenor of my interview, would have become requisite. His Highness at once intimated his intention of appointing a Dewan, and named to that office Narain Rao Phalsighar, an old and tried servant, whose family has served that of Holkar for three generations; who is himself an example of the rare merit of retaining office through every change of government; who has held the situation next in consequence and trust to that of Dewan, and has, in fact, been lately acting in that appointment. He also said that he had already nominated to the other subordinate situations persons who enjoyed his entire confidence, and approving of my recommendation that he would prevent any officer assuming the functions of another, or uniting in his own person more than one office. Captain Trevelyan states that the Maharaja at the same time evinced great interest in the welfare of his son-in-law, Raja Bhow, and an anxiety that some prominent post in the state should be assigned to him, next to himself; that he spoke of him in high terms as being a person of great industry, and disposed to consult the views and wishes of both governments. The interview was a private one, the only persons present being Raja Bhow, Bala Naick, the confidential servant of the Maharaja in charge of his domestic establishments, and Mahomed Rezar Shirazi, in charge of the district of Mehidpore, and a favourite of the Maharaja, who frequently summons him to his presence.

11. Although the reliance of Government on my endeavours to conduct affairs in concert with the existing functionaries of the state in the event of the Maharaja's death, together with the view taken by Government of its duty on a nearly similar occasion in the time of my predecessor, when the incapacity of his Highness to govern his country, and his reluctance to appoint a ministry, had become a subject of frequent report by him, and had shown the Government the necessity of exercising a direct and decided interference, fully authorized me in the expected crisis to adopt a decisive course of conduct, it is not the least satisfactory result attending the conferences which have been held between the Maharaja, myself and Captain Trevelyan, that the appointments which he has made have been the spontaneous suggestion of his own mind, and that his choice has fallen on parties who, from their fidelity to his interests, their experience of the affairs of his government, and the reputation which they enjoy for their devotion to their master, and the confidence which he reposes in them, appear to be as well suited as any others about a Court where a power of selection is limited entirely to the prince's immediate retainer and menials to fill the posts which have been assigned to them. Nothing has struck me more, since I came here, than the absence of that aristocracy which is to be found at almost every other native Court, and whose advice and assistance are so desirable to aid the councils of their prince in cases of emergency. In remarking the singularity to the Maharaja in one of my early visits, he said that it was very true, and deplored the want of such a body; in the absence of which, he was a prey to the

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rapacity of subordinate officers of the state: that the power and splendor of his family was annihilated at the battle of Mehidpore, and that now it only owed its existence to the protecting hand of the British Government. Raja Bhow, the only near relative of his Highness, is at the same time the only person about his Court who stands in an intermediate relation between him and his dependents, and it is by his activity and exertions chiefly that the government of the country has been conducted in a manner which has left me no reason to complain, the different functionaries being kept strictly to their duty, the troops being regularly paid, and ready attention given to every suggestion which I have had to offer, in my intercourse with the Court, for the despatch of business or the amelioration of the government.

12. My discussion with the Maharaja would appear to have aroused him, and to have turned his thoughts to the subject of a successor to his throne more earnestly than he has hitherto been inclined to do. On the 23d instant, when Captain Trevelyan called on his Highness to take leave of him on his return to Mehidpore, he observed to that officer, that he had been considering my conversation with him on the occasion of my last visit, which he had not at the time comprehended, and from a desire to consult the wish of his own people, as well as their welfare in the event of his demise, he had determined, in preference to any one else, to make a selection of some person of his own tribe, and that there were three boys, descendants of Etojee, whom he had summoned to Court with a view to select one of them as his adopted son. I am not at present aware of the exact degree in which they are related to the Maharaja, but it is gratifying to learn that there are some male relatives in the tribe in existence, which, should the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council sanction the adoption of a successor, will supersede the necessity of having recourse to the nomination of a female, which is neither likely to be so popular or so desirable a measure as the other as regards the future prosperity of the state. Captain Trevelyan adds, that his Highness, who seemed perfectly collected and sensible of the importance of the subject he was discussing, concluded by stating, that after having made a selection, he would intimate to me the name of the person on whom his choice fell; I have not, since then, had any further communication from him on the subject. The measure of adopting a successor would undoubtedly tend to settle men's minds, and conduce more than any thing else, in my opinion, to guard against a repetition of those disturbances which followed the death of Mulhar Rao Holkar. It will be in the recollection of his Lordship in Council, that on that occasion, in consequence of the disposition evinced by the Government not to interfere in the progress of events, rival parties were encouraged to disturb the peace of Malwa, when Government, failing in the attempt to maintain that policy, was compelled to adopt a more decided interference than would have been requisite in the first instance if a timely declaration of its views and wishes had been made; and in support of the injurious effects of that system. I beg to refer Government to the contents of Mr. Bax's despatch of the 14th of September 1835 to your predecessor. As soon as I learn the result of the Maharaja's choice, I shall be enabled to form a better idea of the manner in which the regency, which will in any event be necessary, should be constituted.

Aided by the ability and discretion of the present functionaries of the Government in the execution of their several offices, and relying on the interest which they have in respecting my authority, even in the event of the Maharaja dying without a successor, I should hope that I might be able, for a time at least, to carry on the government of the country with them; but it is the turbulence of the soldiery that is to be feared, and which renders it highly desirable that some one should be previously adopted whom they could at once regard as their lawful sovereign, and that our Government should declare its own views on the subject of the succession to allay fear, and repress groundless aspirations.

I have, &c.

(signed) C. M. Wade,
Resident.

Indore Residency, 25 June 1841.

Ordered, That the following letter be written to the Resident at Indore in reply to the two foregoing despatches.

(No. 1798.)

(No. 1798.)

Holkar Succession,
1841-1843.

From *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, c. n., Resident at Indore; dated 12 July 1841.

No. 47.

Sir,

IN reply to your letters of the 17th and 25th of June, I am directed by the Governor-general in Council to state, that he approves generally of the tenor of your communication with the Maharaja Holkar; his Lordship in Council would also authorize you to recognize an adoption of a son duly made by the Maharaja, or by any other person whom he may empower for that purpose, and who may be competent to execute such a trust, under the customs of the Holkar and other Mahratta sovereignties.

Vol. 1, p. 164,
Edition 1823.

2. His Lordship in Council apprehends that it would be quite inconsistent with usage to admit the succession of a female as the titular sovereign of a Mahratta state. It is particularly mentioned in Sir John Malcolm's Memoir of Central India, that the administration of Alia Bhye she chose Tuckajee Holkar "to be the titled head of the sovereignty."

3. In any unforeseen event, it will be your duty, with reference to Article 7 of the Treaty of Mehidpore, to take such measures as may be requisite for maintaining the internal tranquillity of the Holkar territory.

I have, &c.

(signed) *T. H. Maddock*,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Fort William, 12 July 1841.

EXTRACT Fort William Political Consultation; 19 July 1841.

(No. 686, of 1841.)

From Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, c. n., Resident at Indore, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William; dated 1 July 1841.

No. 48.

Sir,

REFERRING to the present state of affairs at the Court of Holkar, I deem it my duty, should it not already have reached Government, to annex, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council copy of a letter to my address from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, in the Political Department, dated the 5th of April last, regarding an attempt made to engage the attention of that Government to the claims of Martund Rao Holkar, and the reply which had been given, viz., reminding the applicant who appeared in his behalf, that Martund Rao had relinquished his claim to the Holkar state, in consideration of which he was receiving a pension of 500 rupees per mensem from the Maharaja, which would be forfeited, if at any time, either personally or through his agents or relatives, he renewed his application; at the same time the Government of Bombay intimated to me, that the collector of Poona had been instructed to watch the movements of Martund Rao, and immediately to report any inclination which he might evince to break his engagement.

Secret Department.

2. Having no reason, at the time, to apprehend any mischief from the intrigue in which the mother of Mulhar Rao Holkar was said to be engaged; and thinking that any formal notice of the information which I had received might tend to encourage bad feeling in the members of the family, who were then apparently living on good terms; I contented myself with merely making general inquiries respecting the person mentioned in Mr. Willoughby's letter; but now, advertent to the precarious state of the Maharaja's health, and to the desire which Krishna Bae seems to cherish of opposing the design of his Highness to provide for the settlement of the succession before his death, in order to create confusion and advance the pretensions of Martund Rao, I have thought proper to give a translation of the letter to the Maharaja, that he might take such precautions as were expedient to prevent the concoction of any intrigue which might be mischievous to the future peace and good order of the state.

3. There being every reason to believe that both Krishna Bae, the mother, and Gotma Bae, the widow of Malhar Rao, have been carrying on a clandestine

Holkar Succession,
1841-1843.

correspondence with Martund Rao, either direct or through the Pundits and other disaffected adherents of the late Government, some of whom were concerned in the attack on the palace, to assassinate Hari Rao, the Maharaja, distrusting the conduct of these ladies, has signified to them his wish, that they should retire for a time to Mahesir, where, in the event of his demise, they will be less able to promote disturbance.

4. From a reference to the records of my office, I find that the bond exacted from Martund Rao by the Maharaja, through the instrumentality of our Government, as the condition on which he was to receive his stipend, contains an unqualified renunciation, for himself and heirs, of all claim to the Holkar state. It is obvious, therefore, that it could be only by the Maharaja's voluntary adoption of Martund Rao, which I stated in my letter of the 5th of March as extremely improbable, that the latter could be held exempt from the obligations which he has contracted, and the fulfilment of which has been guaranteed by the British Government.

5. Until I should obtain some clue to the intrigue in which Krishna Bae was stated to be engaged, I deferred replying to Mr. Willoughby's letter; but the subsequent behaviour of the suspected parties shows the prudence of the course which has been adopted by the Honourable the Governor in Council at Bombay, to check any designs into which the rapacity or ignorance of the selfish intriguers, by whom Martund Rao and his party here are occasionally beset, might lead them to engage. Without referring immediately, however, to the contents of Mr. Willoughby's letter, I, a few days ago, thought it necessary to apprise the Bombay Government of the state of the Maharaja's health, and to request that instructions might be sent to Poona to watch the proceedings of Martund Rao, with reference particularly to the present state of affairs, and to the responsibility which attaches to us of guarding against any commotion likely to disturb the peace of Malwa.

6. His Highness, Hari Rao Holkar, continues in much the same state as when I last addressed you. On the 27th instant, I directed my assistant, Mr. Harris, to visit him, to inquire after his health, and elicit from him if any thing had been done regarding the measure of adopting a successor, which he had announced to Captain Trevelyan on his last visit. Mr. Harris states, that he found him in a very exhausted condition, from which, however, he has since partially rallied. He was so weak as to be incapable of conversing with Mr. Harris, who could not indeed get any other answer from him than a slight motion of the head. When at length Mr. Harris adverted to the conversation which had taken place between his Highness and Captain Trevelyan, he put his hand to his chest, as if to intimate that speaking gave him pain, and motioned first towards Raja Bhow, and then towards Mr. Harris, implying that the former would give him information on that subject; from whom, however, nothing decisive as to the Maharaja's intentions could be obtained; but he called on me the next morning, accompanied by another of the Maharaja's officers, stating that he had been sent by his Highness to inform me that a delay of a few days had occurred in coming to a decision with respect to his successor, in consequence of his wish to consult an old lady, a relation of the Holkar family, of the name of Gopka Bae, who had been residing for years past at Mahesir, and who is celebrated for her knowledge of the genealogy of the various branches of her tribe; that she had confirmed him in the eligibility of his choice of one of the sons of Santajee, and that, if I had no objection, he would select Kunde Rao, the eldest of the boys; adding that he would be still further gratified if I would be present at the adoption, which he was anxious should take place as soon as possible, as it would tend to settle the succession and ensure tranquillity. I observed that I could have no objection to a measure which he deemed essential to the peace and prosperity of his country; that my government was directly interested in their preservation in Malwa, and were anxious only that the succession to his state should be regulated in conformity with the usages of the Holkar family; that I would inform his Lordship in Council of the intention of his Highness without delay; but that as my presence at the ceremony would not carry with it that weight which he supposed, until my government had declared its own recognition of the adoption, I could not myself attend in the meantime.

7. The declared intention of the Maharaja appears to be hailed with great satisfaction by the people, as affording them a strong security against a recurrence

rence of those scenes of bloodshed and disorder which occurred on and for some time after the death of Mulhar Rao Holkar. One of the greatest obstacles to be apprehended, in the event of the Maharaja's demise, is the recency, in the memory of the people, of the lengths to which they were allowed to carry their contentions on the former occasion, and the readiness which they show to quote it as a license for any future excesses. Nevertheless, from the steps the Maharaja has taken, I trust that they will be deterred from any attempts to follow an example so lamentable in its effects, not only to the Holkar state, but throughout Malwa.

I have, &c.

(signed) C. M. Wade,
Resident.

Indore Residency, 1 July 1841.

(No. 942.)

From *J. P. Willoughby*, Esq., Secretary to Government of Bombay, to Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, c. B., Resident at Indore; dated 5 April 1841.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Honourable the Governor in Council to inform you, that under date the 1st ultimo, a petition was presented to this Government by an individual, named Badjee Trimluck, styling himself "The Carcoon of Crustna Bacc, the mother of the late Mulhar Rao Holkar," re-urging the claims of Martund Rao Holkar to the Holkar state.

2. I am further desired to acquaint you that the petition has been returned to Dadjee Trimluck, with an intimation that Martund Rao Holkar has entered into an engagement, by which he has bound himself not to agitate any further claim to the Holkar state, in consideration of which an allowance has been made to him by Hurree Holkar of 500 rupees (five hundred) per mensem, the continuance of which is entirely dependent on his fulfilling his pledge; and that should he at any time, either personally or through an agent or relative, renew his application on this subject, the allowance in question will be forfeited.

3. The collector of Poona has been requested carefully to watch the movements of Martund Rao Holkar, and immediately report to Government, if he is led at any time to believe that that individual is inclined to break the engagement he has entered into.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. P. Willoughby*,
Sec. to Government.

Bombay Castle, 5 April 1841.

(A true copy.)

(signed) C. M. Wade, Resident.

(No. 709, of 1841.)

From Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, c. B., Resident at Indore, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William; dated 6 July 1841.

No. 49.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council, that Maharaja Hari Rao Holkar carried his intention of adopting a son into effect on the 2d instant, and to transmit the news-writer's report of the ceremonies observed on the occasion. Letters have also been addressed to the different officers of his Highness' Government in charge of districts, notifying to them the event which has taken place, and ordering them to observe the usual demonstrations of respect; while a deputation has waited on me and the other officers of the Residency with the customary complimentary messages. The Maharaja partakes in the satisfaction of his people in being relieved of the load of care which oppressed them with regard to the future condition of the country; and such has been the effect of the measure on his mind, that he has rallied greatly from his illness, although he cannot be considered out of danger.

I have, &c.

(signed) C. M. Wade,
Resident.

Indore Residency, 6 July 1841.

Holkar Succession,
1841-1843.

No. 50.

ABSTRACT of Intelligence from the "Indore Akhbar," of the 2d July 1841.

THE Maharaja sent Soorut Sing Leundar to Ghotmah Baiee for two boxes of jewels; Noor Khan Funch and Bala Naick proceeded with great haste to old Indore, and brought with them to the presence Khunde Rao, his father Bappoo Holkar, and his uncle Santajee and his sons. After being bathed and invested with the jewels, his Highness Hurree Rao Holkar took Khundee Rao in his lap, and putting some sugar in his mouth, turned to the "Ahilkors" and "Dhangars" (a favoured tribe of Mahrattas), who were in attendance; he remarked, "I have done this for your benefit;" on which all present offered their congratulations, and expressed their satisfaction at his Highness' selection, which they prayed might prove a happy one. Khunde Rao was then led to the presence of her Highness Ghyna Baee, and seated in her lap, where congratulations were again offered; he was then conducted to the cutchery, and seated on a saddle-cloth, which was spread out on the ground, and adjoining the "Musnud," where the pundits and shastrees presented him with cocoa-nuts; 121 guns were then fired in honour of the occasion.

(True translation.)

(signed) *Alfred Harris.*

Offg. 2d Asst. Resdt.

Ordered, That the following letter be written to the Resident at Indore, with reference to the two foregoing despatches.

(No. 1,972.)

No. 51.

From *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, c. b., Resident at Indore; dated 19 July 1841.

Sir,

YOUR two despatches of the 1st and 6th instant, one reporting the state of the Maharaja Hurree Rao Holkar's health, and the views of Martund Rao's party in furtherance of his claims to the succession, and the other the adoption of Kundee Rao, the eldest son of Santajee Holkar, as the successor of the Maharaja, having been received and laid before the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council, I am directed to inform you in reply, that his Lordship in Council is satisfied with the measure that has been adopted by the Maharaja for the succession to the Holkar state, and approves generally the tenor of your conduct throughout the proceedings that have led to this result.

I have, &c.

(signed) *T. H. Maddock,*

Sec. to the Govt. of India.

Fort William, 19 July 1841.

EXTRACT Fort William, Political Consultation of 30 August 1841.

(No. 827, of 1841.)

No. 56.

From Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, c. b., Resident at Indore, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William, dated 11 August 1841.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward a khureeta to the address of the Right honourable the Governor-general from Maharaja Hari Rao Holka, and to annex a translation of its contents, announcing to his Lordship the adoption of Khundi Rao as his son and successor. His Highness' health has been variable since the date of my last report, but lately, having been induced to try again the prescriptions of Dr. Bruce, he has partially recovered. The doctor's opinion, however, of his precarious state is not affected by these changes.

2. I am in receipt of your letters of the 12th and 19th ultimo. It is satisfactory to find, from a perusal of the former, that in the measure which the Maharaja has

has lately adopted, he has consulted the wishes of the British Government as well as his own. Holkar Succession,
1841-1843.

3. With regard to the observation contained in the 2d paragraph of your letter of the 12th ultimo, that it would not be consistent with the usage of the Holkar family to admit the succession of a female, I may state that, in reporting the discussions in which the threatening illness of the Maharaja involved the attention of his people, I detailed the different views which they took of the subject at that time, and that to which the Maharaja himself was supposed to incline. Any provision for the government of the country which his Highness might indicate, tending, as it would, to a tranquil administration of affairs in the event of his sudden demise, was to be desired, rather than that the state should be thrown into anarchy and confusion from a want of an ostensible form of government. If the measure availed to secure tranquillity, an important object would be gained, leaving its stability to the issue of events, or the confirmation of Government, as its merits might deserve.

4. The case of Ali Bae can be regarded only as an anomaly in the general usage of the family, according to which she had no right to adopt a successor, being only the mother of Mallee Rao, whose widow would have been the person entitled to provide for the succession. I was disposed to regard the recent case as also an extraordinary one, and that it was for the Maharaja immediately to judge of the expediency of the course which he ought to adopt for the safety of his government. From the passages in the history of the Holkar family in the pages of Sir John Malcolm's work, subsequent to that noted in the margin of your letter, it would be difficult, I think, to say wherein consisted the distinction which is stated to have existed between the titular sovereignty ascribed to Tukajee Holkar, and that virtually exercised by Alia Bae; but the discovery of a male descendant would not seem to leave any doubt of the superiority of the present to any other plan which his Highness or his officers may have contemplated to meet the exigency apprehended.

5. Kundo Rao is not, I find, the son of Suntajee, but of his brother, Bapujee Holkar, very distantly related to the reigning family, who was residing, it appears, in a small village in the neighbourhood of Indore, when the Maharaja instituted inquiries respecting the surviving members of his tribe.

I have, &c.

(signed) C. M. Wade,
Resident.

Indore Residency, 11 August 1841.

TRANSLATION of a Khurreeta from his Highness *Hurree Rao Holkar Bahadoor* to the Right honourable the Governor-General of India; dated 9 August 1841.

No. 57.

After preliminary compliments,

BE it known to my kind and gracious friend, that observing the hearts of my subjects full of sorrow, and weighed down with grief, in consequence of the severe illness under which I have been long labouring, I deemed it advisable, for the good of my country and the satisfaction and consolation of my subjects (after fixing on a most auspicious moment, viz. 12th Jumad-ool-awl, corresponding to the 3d July 1841), to adopt as my successor, Khundee Rao, one of my own tribe, and thereby dispel all anxiety and solicitude from the minds of my people; and as the greatest degree of friendship has always existed between the British Government and my own; and as the affairs of my government and the prosperous condition of my territories are a subject of interest to your Lordship, I have addressed this letter for your information; as regards other occurrences of this government, you will be kept informed of them by the Resident, who is a friend to both governments. May the days of happiness and prosperity always correspond with your exalted wishes.

(A true translation.)

(signed) C. M. Wade,
Resident.

Holkar Succession,
1841-1843.

No. 58.

From Governor-General to Maharaja *Hurree Rao Holkar*; dated
30 August 1841.

I GRIEVE to learn that your Highness has been suffering from serious indisposition; please God that the next accounts from Indore may bring me the gratifying intelligence of its amendment; but life and death are in the hands of God, and it is the duty of all wise men, even the strongest in health, to make provision for the future disposal of their affairs in the event of their demise. To princes like your Highness this duty is imperative, as thousands living under their rule are dependent for their future peace and prosperity to the proper succession to the reigning sovereign. I consider, therefore, that your Highness has acted with that prudence and foresight which are becoming your character in selecting from the Holkar tribe one who, in case of your Highness' demise without direct issue, shall succeed to the musnud. I make no doubt that the selection is a proper one, and it meets accordingly with my full approbation. The British Government feels an interest in the honour and welfare of the Holkar family; and it is my earnest hope that your Highness may recover your health entirely, and long continue to fill with usefulness and distinction the high post among the states of India so long held by your family.

Fort William, 30 August 1841.

(signed) *Auckland.*

(No. 2385.)

No. 59.

From *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, c. b., Resident at Indore; dated 30 August 1841.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 11th instant, giving cover to a khurreeta, addressed by Maharaja Hurree Rao Holkar to the Right honourable the Governor-general; and I am directed to transmit to you, for delivery to the Maharaja, the enclosed letter, which the Governor-general has addressed to his Highness in reply, a copy of which is also enclosed for your information.

2. I am at the same time directed to communicate to you the approval of his Lordship in Council of your proceedings in the matter of the adoption of an heir to the Holkar estates, and to inform you that his Lordship in Council is satisfied by your report that the selection of Khunder Rao is a proper one.

I have, &c.

(signed) *T. H. Maddock*,
Sec. to the Gov. of India.

Fort William. 30 August 1841.

EXTRACT India Political Consultations, 15 February 1843.

No. 80.

EXTRACT Letter from the Secretary to Government of India with the Governor-General to Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, K.C.B., Resident at Indore, dated Camp Ferozepore, 3 January 1842.

WITH reference to the notices which have lately appeared in your diaries respecting the conduct of the Maharaja, I am desired by the Governor-general to convey to you the request of his Lordship, to receive a report on the mental state of his Highness' health.

EXTRACT Fort William Political Consultation; 5 April 1843.

No. 8.

No. 50.

From the Resident at Indore to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-general: dated 27 January 1843.

Sir,

Secret Department.

IN reply to your letter of the 3d instant, desiring a report on the mental state of the Maharaja's health, I have the honour to observe that his Highness partakes

partakes in a great, though not so extravagant a measure as some of his predecessors, of that eccentricity which is hereditary in the family. For instance, Mallee Rao, the grandson and successor of the first Molhar Rao Holkar, and the son of Alia Bhaie, died raving mad: for a description of which, as well as the insanity of Jeswunt Rao Holkar, I would beg to refer to the history of the family given in the sixth chapter of Sir John Malcolm's Report on Central India. I may also mention the case of Bheema Bhaee, the daughter of Jeswunt Rao, who, as you are aware, is residing at Indore, quite insane.

2. Hurri Rao Holkar's confinement for 16 or 17 years in a cell in the fort of Mahesir, where he was imprisoned by the jealousy of his cousin, the late Malhar Rao, has tended, no doubt, to increase his constitutional infirmity of intellect; while the peril in which his life was placed by the murderous attack on his palace, in the early part of his reign, by some of the adherents of Martand Rao, had the effect of filling his mind with such distrust and suspicion, that he would repose confidence in no one; and his own avarice and eccentric habits prevented him from paying the requisite attention to his government, as reported at the time by my predecessor, Mr. Bax.

3. Disorders consequently ensued in the administration of his affairs, which led the Governor-general in Council to threaten a direct assumption of authority in the management of the state, unless an immediate reform took place in the appointment of responsible officers, which was done. Affairs seem to have gone on very well until the departure of Mr. Bax, when the absence of any Resident at the Court of Indore to support the system which had been established led to its entire subversion, and matters began to threaten a renewal of those evils which had before prompted the interference of Government. The dangerous state of the Maharaja's health some time after my arrival, and the mischievous consequences to the peace of the country, which were likely to be the result of his death at such a juncture, impelled me to make a serious representation to him on the subject; the result of which, together with the adoption of a son, at the earnest entreaty of his people, will be found in my reports to Government. The settlement which was then made has been carried on without any fresh cause of complaint, in a manner beneficial to the general good government of his territory.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. M. Wade,*
Resident.

Indore Residency,
Camp Dhar, 27 January 1843.

(True copy.)

(signed) *C. M. Wade,* Resident.

ON the 8th February last, the following letter was issued with reference to the foregoing by direction of the Governor-general.

(No. 221 of 1843.)

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-general, to Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, K. C. B., Resident at Indore; dated Camp Delhie, 8 February 1843.

No. 91.

Sir,

IN acknowledging the receipt of your despatch, No. 8, dated the 27th ultimo, I am directed by the Governor-general to inquire what character the son adopted by the Maharaja bears, and also to request that you will furnish for his Lordship's information all circumstances with which you may be acquainted relating to the boy.

Political
Department.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Thomason,*

Officiating Secretary to the Government of India
with the Governor-general.

Camp Delhie, 8 February 1843.

Holkar Succession,
1841-1843.

EXTRACT Fort William Political Consultation of 19 April 1843.

No. 23.

(No. 202 of 1843.)

No. 125.

From Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, K. C. B., Resident at Indore, to *J. Thomason*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-general; dated Camp Kanass, 2 March 1843.

Sir,

Secret Department.

IN reply to the inquiry contained in your letter of the 8th ultimo regarding the boy adopted by the Maharaja as his successor during his illness in 1841, I have the honour to inform you that his name is Kandi Rao, the son of Bapoojee Holkar, a zemindar residing in the village of Jotsi Khera near Indore, and one of the nearest descendants of the family.

2. Kandi Rao was selected in the following manner: the Maharaja himself, not being acquainted with the hereditary descent of his family, summoned from Mahesir an old woman, Gopka Bai, the widow of one of the Holkar tribe, and famed among its members for her knowledge of its genealogy; she stated that Bapoojee and Santojee, the sons of Ithoba, residing near Indore, were the nearest in connexion to him. One of the Maharaja's attendants was accordingly sent to bring them and their sons, of which the former had two and the latter one, before his Highness. On their arrival, his choice fell on Kandi Rao, as well from being in appearance the most intelligent, as on account of his name, that of the husband of Alia Bai and of the Deity whom the Mahrattas chiefly worship.

3. He is now a lad of about 13 years of age, of good temper, cheerful and conciliatory disposition, by no means wanting in intelligence, and of manners so superior to what might have been expected from his former station in life, as to have attracted the observation of those European and native, who have had opportunities of seeing him on public occasions, when, owing to the Maharaja's illness, Kandi Rao has filled his place.

4. He is constantly in attendance on his Highness, who has appointed a Mahratta tutor to superintend his education, and can read and write that language. His habits, as far as I have been able to observe, are steady, and I should be inclined to think that he would turn out well. So much, however, depends on the manner in which he is trained and educated, that it is impossible to speak with certainty on that point. I omit no opportunity of directing the Maharaja's attention to its importance. He seems impressed with it himself, but truly observes that the weak and superstitious pundits and others, who are the only persons available, possess a poor knowledge and experience of that enlarged system of education which prevails among European nations, and tends to lay the foundation of a good and able ruler.

5. Enclosed is a genealogical tree of the Holkar family, as far as I have been able to ascertain it, which I procured at the time of Kandi Rao's adoption.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. M. Wade*,
Resident.

Indore Residency, Camp Kanoss,
2 March 1843.

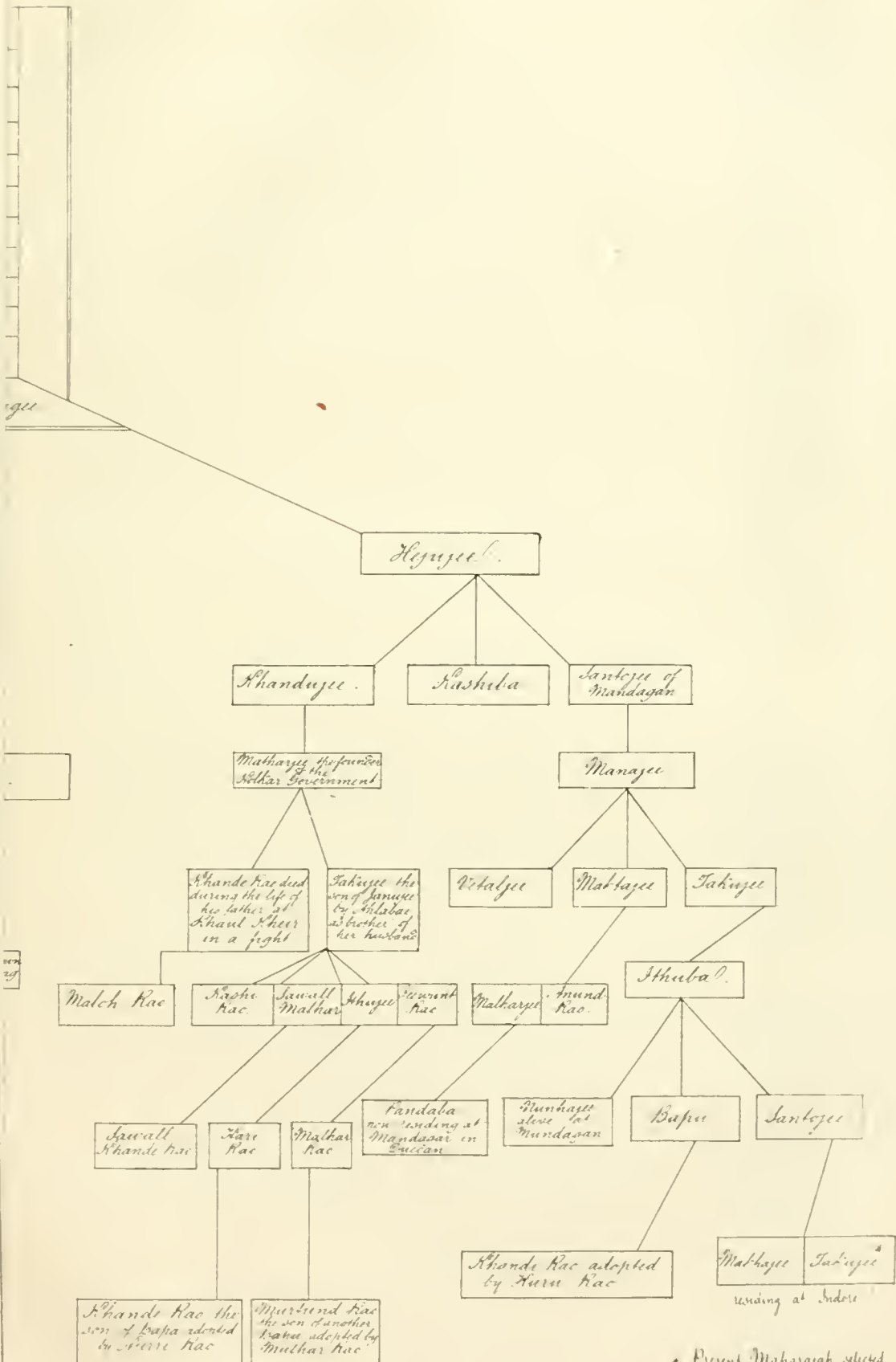
(True copy.)

(signed) *C. M. Wade*, Resident.

of Malhiba.

To face Page 16.

Malhiba Tribe. From Sekhal the family emigrated to Chattergarh and after some while came near Jargore. After the last-named village they were called Borkar afterwards, and after them the village was named "Malhiba Borkar".

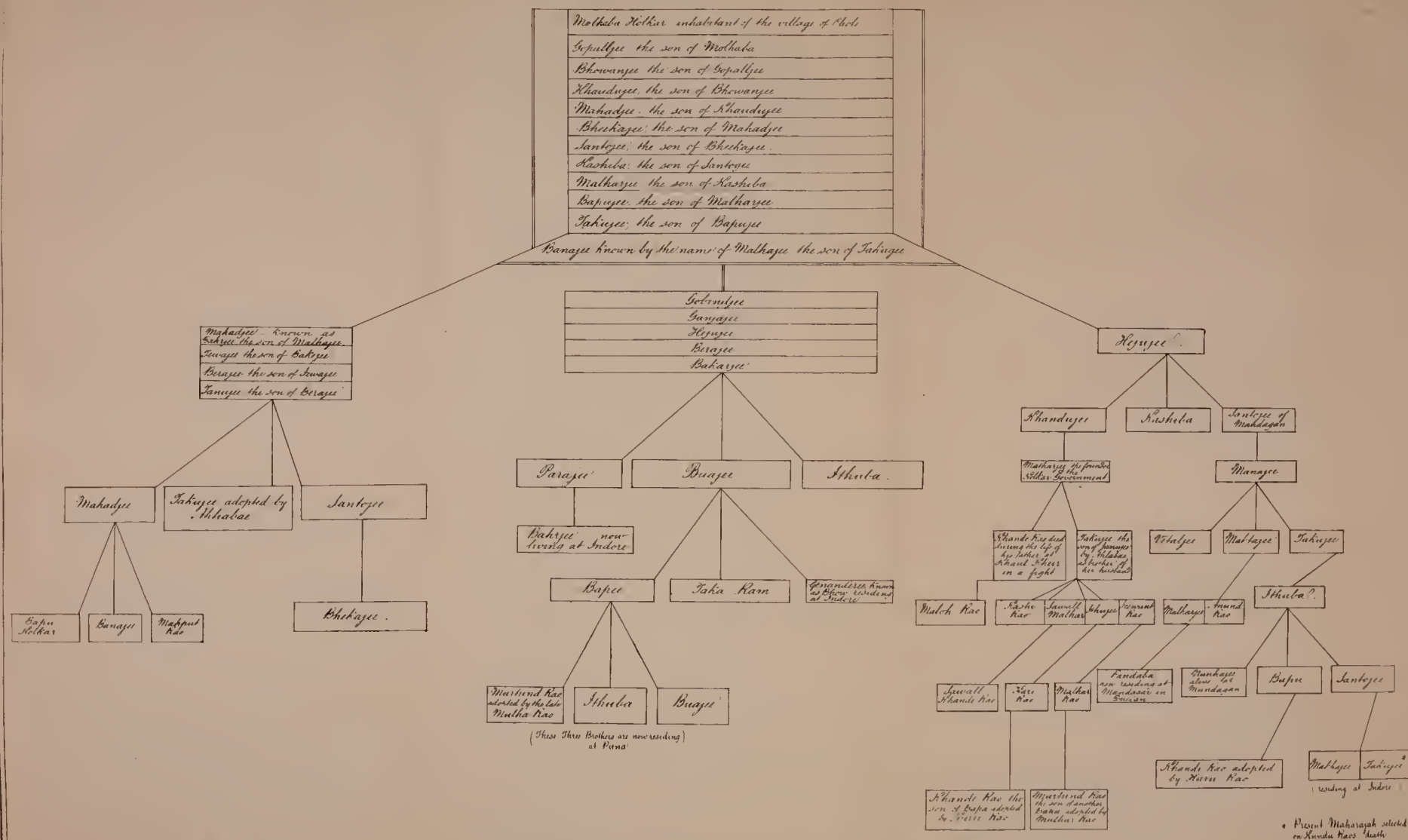


* Present Maharajah selected on Kurni Rao's death

V. Wade.
Resident.

Genealogical Table of the family of Malhibu.

The family of Malluba from whom that of Nethur has descended was residing at Sakal near Mathura they are of the Dhonyar Khutabhar tribe. From Sakal the family emigrated to Chittoorgurh and after some while from thence to Unayagpather near Agraabad. From Munger palace they moved to Phalander and lived in the village of Kalmewam near Surgoe. After the last named village they were called Werkar. Afterwards one of the members of the family settled in the village of Kalmewam. Malluba in this village obtained the situation of Couty Kotel and after him the village was named 'Mallubha Nethur'.



True Copy (Signed) C. W. Wade,
Resident.

(Signed) C. H. Wade
Resident

(No. 120.)

EXTRACT India Political Consultations; 7 October 1843.

Holkar Succession,
1841-1843.

No. 112.

EXTRACT Letter from Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, Bart. and C. B., Resident at Indore, to *J. Thomason*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India; dated Indore Residency, 22 September 1843.

THE Maharaja's health has again become worse, as will be seen from the enclosed abstract of intelligence from Durbar, dated the 20th instant, which also mentions that he himself, despairing of his recovery, had called his relations and favourite attendants around him, and given them directions regarding his property, and care of his interests after his death.

2. In applying for the instruction of Government in my letters of the 23d and 26th ult., I omitted to advert to the pretensions which may possibly be put forward by rival parties in favour of Martund Rao and Ulumdee Rao. I should not have deemed a reference to them requisite now, had it not been for the fears entertained by his Highness, as the enclosure will likewise show the safety, in the event of Maharaja's demise, of his adopted son Khundee Rao, who, as Government is aware, has been formally recognized by itself; but as the partisans of Martund Rao bear in mind his former recognition, and the manner in which he was allowed to be deposed by the present chief (from an imaginary idea that the change was desired by the people at large, who, however, had less to do with it than a few busy persons by whom it was brought about), they cannot be persuaded that the same course may not be again followed; I would therefore beg to solicit the orders of the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council on that point, and to state, that nothing is so likely, in my opinion, to prevent a repetition of the scenes of anarchy and bloodshed which ensued on the former occasion as a direct communication on the part of his Lordship in Council of the view which is taken of the question. Martund Rao, it will be remembered, accepted a pension a short time before my arrival here from Holkar, on the condition of resigning his claims to the state, and that he is now residing under the surveillance of the British Government at Poonah.

ABSTRACT of Intelligence from the Indore Durbar.

No. 113.
9 September 1843.

KHUNDEE RAO HOOLKAR came to pay his respects; his Highness observed to those in attendance, that after his death he feared that his (Kundee Rao's) life would not be safe: Inam Rao and others repudiated the idea; but his Highness remarked, in reply, that after his death he felt convinced that he would not be provided for. On this, those in attendance reminded him, that he had adopted him two years ago, when he was so very ill, and that he had recovered; his Highness observed, that during his lifetime there was no fear of anything happening to him.

EXTRACT Letter from Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, K. C. B., Resident at Indore, to *J. Thomason*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William; dated Indore, 23 September 1843.

No. 114.

As observed in my letter of yesterday's date, no persuasions will dispel the ignorance of parties here with regard to their ability to set aside the recognition of Kundee Rao by the British Government, as they were allowed to do in the case of the last vacancy of the raj. I still, therefore, hope that the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council will be disposed to admit the importance of the suggestion which I offered yesterday. I need not observe, with reference to the existing want of any efficient ministry, and the certain evils which will result from the continuance of such a state of affairs, how much my endeavours to fulfil the expectations of Government will be strengthened, if his Lordship in Council would address his highness direct, and, regretting his illness, refer to the fears which he had heard from me were entertained by the Maharaja, as to the future welfare of his adopted son; that he, having been already recognized by the British Government, needed no other protector, adding an expression of his Lordship's disappointment that he had not continued to receive the same favourable reports as formerly of his administration, and a

Holkar Succession,
1841-1843.

• *Orig.*

hope that nothing would be allowed permanently to disturb the good system on which he had* hitherto been conducted. It was to the disorganized state of the Government that my letter of the 23d ult. chiefly alluded; and if such a communication would prevent the country being thrown into a state of disorder, I feel assured that his Lordship in Council will excuse me for suggesting it.

No. 115.

From Governor-general to his Highness Maharaja *Hurree Rao Holkar*.

I HAVE heard with deep regret from my Resident at your court, that your Highness has lately been suffering from some indisposition. The lives of men are in the hands of the Almighty; I trust He will be pleased to spare you to the prayers of your people, and give you length of days, and increased honour.

† *Orig.*

It is reported to me that your Highness is anxious regarding the future welfare of your adopted son, *Khundee Rao*. It will be in your recollection that when your Highness, two years ago, communicated intelligence of the adoption to the Governor-general of India, full approbation of the measure was expressed, and the measure was regarded as indicative of your Highness, was done,† and anxiety for the welfare of the people over whom you ruled. The British Government is ever mindful of its engagements; and when it has once recognized the rightful claimant, will not cease to extend its countenance and protection to him so long as he remains faithful to his engagements.

I am concerned to hear that your Highness's protracted indisposition has occasioned some derangement in the affairs of your administration. No doubt, when it pleases God to restore you to health, all these evils will be remedied, and in the mean time you should not delay to entrust the administration to wise and competent ministers.

You will not fail to inform me quickly of the state of your health, and to delight me with the intelligence of your recovery.

(signed) *Ellenborough.*

No. 116.

From Mr. Secretary *Thomason* to the Resident at Indore.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches, dated the 22d and 23d ult., No. 129 and 132, and, as suggested therein, to transmit for delivery to his Highness Maharaja *Hurree Rao Holkar*, the enclosed *khurreeta* to his address from the Governor-general.

Translation and a Persian version of the letter are enclosed for information.

I have, &c.

Fort William, 7 October 1843.

(signed) *J. Thomason,*
Secretary to the Government of India.

EXTRACT India Political Consultations; 27 January 1844.

No. 103.

EXTRACT Letter from Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, c.b., Resident at Indore, to *J. Thomason*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William; dated 25 October 1843.

‡ *Orig.*

I HAVE the honour to announce the demise yesterday afternoon of Maharaja *Hari Rao Holkar*, in the forty-eighth year of his age. 2d.‡ Having, by particular desire of the *Maejee*, and his Highness' immediate officers, waited on him on the 16th instant, I found him in a state of insensibility and exhaustion, from which it was the opinion of Dr. Bruce, who accompanied me, that he could not possibly recover. I deemed it necessary, therefore, to suggest to the *Maejee*, in a private interview, that the different officers of the state should be summoned before us, which was accordingly done; and they were instructed how to act in their several departments in the event of his Highness' death, looking only to the *Maejee* and myself for their orders.

3. The Maharaja was immediately removed to the palace, and remained in the same unconscious state, until the day before his death, when he made an effort to speak, called for his immediate relations and dependents, and, telling them that

that the hand of death was on him, bid them all farewell, and committed the honour of the family and state, as well as the protection of the Kundi Rao, to them.

Holkar Succession,
1841-1843.

4. On receiving intelligence of his Highness' death, and a message from the Mac Sahib to attend, I went to the palace, and remained in conversation with her and Khandi Rao until the Maharaja's body was removed to be burnt, and took that opportunity of presenting the Right honourable the Governor-general's letter, received with your despatch of the 7th instant, and the delivery of which to the late Maharaja in his then state would have been useless: I adverted generally to its contents, and, recognizing Kundi Rao Holkar in the name of my government, placed his hands in those of the Mac Sahib and Tae Sahib, and requested that the affairs of the government should be conducted in his name.

EXTRACT Letter from Mr. Officiating Secretary *Currie* to Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, K.C.B., Resident at Indore; dated Fort William, 13 November 1843.

No. 104.
Foreign Department.

I AM directed to acknowledge your letter of the 25th ult., announcing the demise of Maharaja Hurrie Rao Holkar.

2. The Governor-general in Council desires that you will offer his Lordship's condolence to the Maejee.

EXTRACT Letter from Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, K.C.B., Resident at Indore, to *J. Thomason*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William; dated Indore Residency, 2 November 1843.

No. 113.

IN my letter to your address of the 25th ult., I stated that I had presented the Governor-general's letter confirming the recognition of Khundeh Rao, on the evening of the Maharaja's demise; but in consequence of the tumultuous scene of lamentation which prevailed, and the crowd of men and women by which the Mahae Sahib was surrounded, I did not think it proper to allude particularly to that part of his Lordship's communication which adverted to the necessity of establishing an efficient form of government.

As the occasion for it, however, had increased by the death of his late Highness, and the minority of the youth intended to succeed, I addressed a letter, No. 1, on the following morning to the Mahjee, of which a translation is annexed: I deputed my assistant, Lieutenant Eden, to convey it to her, together with a message from myself, in which I requested that letters might immediately be issued to the various functionaries of the government, and proclamation made in the city, announcing the accession of Khundeh Rao, with the concurrence of the British Government. He at the same time expressed the direct interest which it felt in providing for the future care and safety of the recognized heir, and my wish that an early day should be named after the expiration of the mourning season for his installation, when he would receive the usual khilut of investiture on the part of my government.

Lieutenant Eden reports, that the Mae Sahib evinced a desire to postpone the discussion of these points till the mourning was over, in which she was joined by the Yae Sahib. Khundeh Rao was present at the interview, and, having evidently been tutored by the latter, once or twice interrupted the conversation with remarks of a flippant nature, on which the Mahjee merely observed that "he was a child, and should be treated as such."

As, however, from a conviction of the importance of removing at once any misapprehensions or doubts of the determination of government on the subject, I had instructed Lieutenant Eden to press the adoption of these measures without delay, he persevered in his representations, when the Furnavese was directed to prepare a draft of the letter to be issued to the amils, and other district authorities, a translation of which, No. 2, is also annexed. The proclamation in the city is postponed as not being customary until the succession is actually installed, the day for which has been fixed for the 13th instant; and, to give every eclat to the ceremony, the Major-general commanding the Malwa field force, attended by his staff, will join me with a suitable escort on that day.

Holkar Succession,
1841-1843.

I likewise reminded the Mahee Sahib of the immediate necessity of providing separately for Khundeh Rao, having found that during the last days of the Maharaja's illness, when his recovery had become hopeless, the Tasee Sahib had assumed to herself the right of taking charge of the youth, whom she had taken into her own apartments, a course which she had no title to follow; the wife of Holkar, with whom Khundeh Rao had been living, being still alive, and the interference of the former not being satisfactory to those persons about the late chief, to whom, especially to Bala Naick, his dying injunctions were to look after Khundeh Rao.

However unfit that individual is to conduct affairs of the government, as he had been an old and attached servant, and I believe slave of the Maharaja, it appeared to me that a becoming deference to the expressed wish of the latter pointed him out as the proper person to be at the head of Khundeh Rao's domestic establishment, which should include the other personal servants of his late Highness, who might be supposed to have a more direct interest in his welfare than any one else was likely to have.

These arrangements were carried into effect next day.

No. 114. TRANSLATION of a Khurreeta from the Resident to the Maec Sahib; dated 25 October 1843.

AFTER preliminary compliments, observes, that since, by the will of God, the Maharaja has departed this life, she is well aware how that two years before, when in possession of all his faculties, he had of his own free will and accord, and with the concurrence and knowledge of the British Government, adopted Khundee Rao Holkar as his son and successor; reminds her, that he had yesterday delivered to her a "Khureeta" from the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council, in which his right to the succession was acknowledged, and his (the Governor-general's) determination to uphold and support him duly announced; informs her, that Khundee Rao must be considered as in the place of the late Maharaja, and requests her to announce the event publicly, as well as the Maharaja's demise, to all the amils, karkoons, and other public functionaries, giving them to understand, that he is the acknowledged successor, and that nobody else will be recognised by the British Government, and that all papers should be made out in the name, if sealed, with his (Khundee Rao's) seal; recommends that a proclamation should be issued to the above effect, tending to give confidence, and* to the ryots, that the appointment of competent persons for the conduct of affairs of state, as recommended in the Khureeta of the Right honourable the Governor-general, should be carried into effect with as little delay as possible, on which subject Lieutenant Eden would wait on and consult her; expresses a hope that she will in every respect look upon and treat Khundee Rao as the heir to the throne, and acknowledged as such by the British Government.

Orig.

(True translation.)

(signed) A. Harris, Second Assistant Resident.

No. 115. LETTER from the Maec Sahib to the Komaisdar of Indore; dated October 1843.

INFORMS him of the death of his Highness Hurree Rao Holkar on the 24th instant, and that Khundee Rao Holkar, who was adopted by him about three years ago, is heir to the throne, and all the late Maharaja's possessions, and had been acknowledged as such by the British Government, directs him to perform the duties assigned to him with care and vigilance, and to rest satisfied that every thing would go well.

(True translation.)

(signed) A. Harris, Second Assistant Resident.

From Secretary to the Government of India to Resident at Indore ;
dated Fort William, 17 November 1843.

Holkar Succession,
1841-1843.

No. 119.

Foreign Department.

Sir,

YOUR despatch of the 2d instant, No. 165, and its enclosures, reporting further measures taken by you to provide for the interests of the young chief, Khundee Rao, having been laid before the Governor-general in Council, I am directed, in reply, to inform you, that his Lordship in Council approves of the proceedings you have adopted, and the measures you propose as described in that communication.

I have, &c.

(signed) *F. Currie,*

Secretary to the Government of India.

Fort William,
17 November 1843.

Holkar Succession, 1844.

Holkar Succession,
1844.

(No. 15, of 1844.)

Fort William, Foreign Department, 23 March 1844.

To the Honourable the Secret Committee of the Honourable the Court of Directors.

Honourable Sirs,

WE have in this despatch to announce the death of Kundeh Rao Holkar, the young chief of the Holkar state, whose recent succession to the guddee, with the concurrence of the family of the late chief, and the approbation of the sirdars and others, we have so lately communicated to your honourable Committee.

2. On the 2d ultimo the Resident forwarded to the Governor-general a report of the medical officer in attendance on the young chief, showing the dangerous character of the disease from which he was suffering, and the small prospect there appeared of his ultimate recovery.

3. In this communication, the Resident remarked on the position in which the succession to the Holkar state would be placed by the fatal termination of Kundeh Rao's illness, and suggested, that in the event of his death, either the Maee Sahib should be permitted to adopt another heir, or that Martund Rao should, as an act of grace and favour, be called to the chiefship.

4. To this proposition the Governor-general, then on his march towards Allahabad, replied, after regretting that the Holkar state was likely again to be exposed to the chances of confusion which must attend the succession of any one not directly descended from the reigning family, and having no inherent title to the guddee, that his Lordship did not deem it expedient to countenance any pretensions which might be advanced by Martund Rao, who had been already rejected by the public feeling from the guddee, after his succession to it had been acknowledged, in which rejection, the British Government had seen reason to acquiesce.

5. His Lordship called the attention of the Resident to the proceedings which took place when Kundeh Rao was adopted, when three boys were presented to the late chief for selection, all considered by birth eligible to the succession, from whom Kundeh Rao was chosen, and suggested that inquiry should be made about the remaining two.

6. But the Governor-general remarked, that where there is no person having the shadow of hereditary claim to succeed to the guddee of a native state, and no person possessing a legitimate title to adopt, and where, moreover, that state itself is of comparatively modern origin, owing its existence to a conquest made by predatory troops, it must always remain a question how far it may be expedient to maintain the separate existence of that state for the benefit of none but the immediate followers of the court, and he directed that means should be taken to ascertain the national feeling on the subject.

7. The Resident was told that, under any circumstances, the present regency would be continued, in the event of Kundeh Rao's death, till definite instructions should be given him.

Holkar Succession,
1844.

8. On the 17th ultimo the Resident announced the death, on that morning, of the Maharaja Kundeh Rao. Sir C. M. Wade replied to the remarks contained in the letter of the Governor-general above referred to, and suggested, that either Muktajee, one of the boys presented to Hurri Rao Holkar, when Kundeh Rao was adopted, a cousin of the late Maharaja, and now nine or ten years old, should by us be declared the successor to the principality, or that the Mae Sahib should be allowed to adopt any member of the family other than Martund Row.

9. To this we replied, that, as it appeared there would be no difficulty in carrying on the government with the regency now existing, which seemed to give general satisfaction, we considered it most expedient to leave the government for the present, as now constituted, with the Mae Sahib at its head, aided by the British Resident.

10. We observed, that of Maktajee we knew nothing, and that he is no near connexion of the Holkar family, and that under any circumstances it would be desirable that we should have some little time to consider in whose hands it would be most expedient to place the future government, to which no one would seem to have an hereditary claim.

11. We have therefore decided on leaving things as they now are for the present, and we have directed that our assurances be given to the Mae Sahib, that she will have the decided support of the Resident while she may act as the head of the state, and that it be made distinctly known to the Sirdars, and all the subjects of the government, that we shall regard with severe displeasure any attempt to put forward in any manner the pretensions of Martund Rao, or any one else, to the guddee.

We have, &c.

(signed) *Ellenborough.*
W. W. Bird.
G. H. Maddock.

Fort William, 23 March 1844.

Fort William, Foreign Department, Secret, 23 December (No. 88), 1844.

To the Honourable the Secret Committee of the Honourable the
Court of Directors.

Honourable Sirs,

1. In our despatch of the 23d March last we announced to your honourable Committee the demise of Khundee Rao, the young chief of Indore. By this event the guddee of the Holkar state was rendered vacant, there being no person with any legal claim whatever to succeed, and there being no one possessed of a legitimate title to adopt a successor.

2. Under these circumstances, although there appeared no present difficulty in carrying on the government with the existing regency, the Mae Sahib, aided by the British Resident, yet we considered it necessary that the British Government should intervene to establish a government in the Holkar dominions, as it rested with it alone to nominate a successor, and even to decide on the expediency or otherwise of maintaining the separate existence of the state.

3. In reporting the demise of Khundee Rao, the then Resident, Sir C. Wade, as we have informed your honourable Committee, recommended that Mooktagee, a cousin of the late Maharaja, and about nine or ten years of age, should be declared by us the successor to the principality: this Mooktajee was one of the three boys presented to Hurree Rao for selection, when Khundee Rao was preferred by his Highness as his successor. As we were totally uninformed regarding the character and circumstances of this boy, we deemed it expedient to desire the Resident to endeavour to inform himself with respect to the health and disposition of the boy, and also as to the character of his father, Santojee, or any relations he might have, and to report the result to Government as early as possible.

4. We informed the Resident, that, after he had made the first inquiries upon these points, it might be expedient that he should allow it to be known that he was so engaged: this knowledge generally dispersed, we considered might tend to allay any anxiety which might be entertained with respect to our intentions, and might enable the Resident to form some judgment as to the general wishes
with

with respect to the succession of any individual to the guddee. In reply, the Resident informed us, that Mooktagee's father was a person of no importance, and had never enjoyed any consideration at the durbar, and that he had no reason to believe that the nomination of the boy would be acceptable to the people generally; while the regent, the Maiee Shabebah, considered that he had no title whatever to be elevated to the guddee.

5. The Resident then took occasion to inform us of the substance of a conversation he had held with the Maiee Sahebah, in which her Highness expressed her desire that the British Government should place Martund Rao on the guddee; the succession of this person, the Maiee assured the Resident, would not fail to afford universal satisfaction to the people. If, however, the Supreme Government had any objection to his succeeding, her Highness could not but acquiesce, and in that event her Highness considered that the person most eligible to be the future Maharaja was the younger of the two sons of Bhow Holkar.

6. In forwarding the above information, and requesting our speedy decision in the matter of the succession, the Resident stated, that he believed the people generally were favourable to Martund Rao, and would be gratified by his being nominated Maharaja.

7. In reply, we informed the Resident that were the question of Martund Rao's succession altogether new, and if his eligibility were now to be considered, together with that of the other boys of the Holkar family, under precisely similar circumstances, the Governor-general in Council might have been disposed to meet the express wishes of the Maha Sahibah, by selecting Martund Rao for the guddee; but Martund Rao having been once already upon the guddee, by reason of legal or pretended adoption, his restoration now would have, to a certain degree, the appearance of a succession by legitimate right: whereas inasmuch as he has really no legal claim, and the guddee is really vacant, and no one of the Holkar family now possesses the right of adopting a successor thereto, it seemed desirable that the selection of a successor should be manifestly the sole act of the British Government, as the paramount protecting state.

8. Further, as, after having acknowledged Martund Rao as Maharaja, we had seen fit, in a few days, in consequence of the demonstration of popular feeling in favour of Hurree Rao, to acquiesce in the dethronement and expulsion of Martund Rao, and to acknowledge Hurree Rao as Maharaja; and as we had subsequently acknowledged Khundee Rao, who was adopted by Hurree Rao to the continued exclusion of Martund Rao, it would seem to be most consistent with the character of our Government to adhere to the course twice pursued, and to reject the claims of Martund Rao on this occasion, as they were rejected before.

9. It was far better, we considered, to adhere to a course once adopted, than to change that course upon any but very grave and decided grounds of expediency, and especially where the change would give an appearance of triumph to a party still pertinaciously held up, notwithstanding the discountenance of our Government.

10. It could not, we observed, but be in reality a matter of much indifference to the subjects of the Holkar states, which of the eligible boys should be ultimately placed upon the guddee under the Mah Sahibah, who was alone an object of respect; and it would certainly be more convenient to her Highness that the Maharaja who might be selected should be altogether without any pretensions to the guddee but such as he should derive from being placed there by the British Government.

11. We observed, that it was not obvious why the youngest son, rather than the eldest son of Bhow Holkar, should be deemed by the Mah Sahibah to be the most eligible person after Martund Rao and his brother. Perhaps her Highness, we considered, might see some convenience to herself in a more protracted minority. It was not, however, a matter, we stated, upon which, without grave reasons, the Governor-general in Council would be disposed to thwart the Mah Sahibah's wishes at the time when he overruled her Highness's desire for the succession of Martund Rao; and if no such reasons should, upon inquiry, appear to the Resident to exist, he was authorized to inform her Highness that the Governor-general in Council having taken into consideration all past occurrences, and the present position of the Holkar state, had formed the conclusion that it was most for the

Holkar Succession,
1844.

benefit of the state that the younger son of Bhow Holkar should succeed to the guddee.

12. It was to be regretted, we continued, that we should have no information as to the character or circumstances of Bhow Holkar, or as to the age or health or disposition of his two sons. If the Resident's inquiries upon these heads should lead him to entertain doubts as to the expediency of selecting either of the boys for the guddee, we desired him not to make any decided communication to the Mah Sahibah in favour of either of them without further instructions.

13. It appeared, from the Resident's despatch of the 24th June last, which forms enclosure No. 6 in reply to the above communication, that the propriety of our decision to set aside finally the claims of Martund Rao had been completely acquiesced in by the Maee Sahibah; and it further appeared that the selection of the younger son of Bhow Holkar by the Mahjee, in preference to his elder brother, had no reference whatever to a longer minority, but was simply because of the two, the younger was a more comely and healthy child, and his horoscope the most fortunate.

14. In the same despatch, the Resident proceeded to inform us, that, having satisfied himself that there was no reasonable ground to interfere in her Highness's selection, he had, after consultation with the regent and ministry on the propriety of the measure, on the 23d June, in open durbar, declared that the British Government had, out of its desire to perpetuate the Holkar state, come to the resolution of nominating a successor to the chiefship; and, in deference to the expressed wishes of the Mahee Sahibah, had determined to place the younger son of Bhow Holkar on the guddee, under the style and title of Jeswunt Rao Yukajee Holkar.

15. The Resident at the same time informed us of his intention of proceeding on the 27th, or two days after the date of his despatch, to instal the young Maharaja, according to the ceremonial observed on former occasions.

16. Accordingly, on the day appointed, the installation of the young Maharaja took place, under a royal salute of 21 guns, and with precisely the same ceremonies which had been observed on the accession of the late chief, Khundee Rao. We refer your honourable Committee to our despatch of the 14th September last, which forms enclosure No. 16, for our sentiments, as detailed at length, respecting these proceedings of the Resident.

17. We could not but record our grave objections to the precipitancy and want of due deliberation which marked that officer's conduct throughout.

18. By the instructions of the 5th of June, the Resident was authorized to do no more than merely institute inquiry respecting the age, health and disposition of the two boys, the sons of Bhow Holkar; and if, on inquiry, there appeared no reason to doubt of the expediency of selecting either for the chiefship, or for thwarting the wishes of the Maha Sahibah, with respect to the youngest, then to communicate to her Highness, and to her alone, that the Governor-general in Council, having taken into consideration all past occurrences, and the then position of the Holkar state, had formed the conclusion that it was most for the benefit of the state that the younger son of Bhow Holkar should succeed to the guddee. The Resident was then to report his proceedings to the Supreme Government, and to await further instructions.

19. Instead, however, of confining himself to the strict letter of his instructions, the Resident, as has been seen, proceeded to call a public durbar, and there announced the intention of the Supreme Government, on account of its desire to perpetuate the Holkar state, to select a successor to the chiefship from among the persons deemed eligible; and further declared, that out of the great respect the Supreme Government had for the Mah Sahibah, and in deference to her Highness's wishes, it had been determined to place the younger son of Bhow Holkar on the guddee.

20. The Resident then appointed a day for the ceremonial of installation, and on the date fixed, without receiving any instructions from the Supreme Government on the subject, proceeded to instal the young chief, who was merely the person nominated by the British Government as the successor to a vacant guddee, with the same ceremonial which had been observed on the very different occasion of the succession of Khundee Rao, a chief legally adopted, with the previous knowledge and entire consent of the British Government.

21. By these proceedings of the Resident, the accession of the young chief, instead of bearing the appearance of a free act of grace on the part of the British Government,

Government, who alone possessed the legal power to nominate, assumed more the form of a succession by legitimate right. Holkar Succession,
1844.

22. It had been the intention of the Governor-general in Council, on this occasion of the nomination of a successor to a vacant guddee, to mark distinctly the difference of position between the nominee of the paramount power and the chieftain succeeding by hereditary right, by delivering to the Maharaja a sunnud, nominating his Highness to the guddee, and fixing the amount of nuzzur which his Highness should present to the British Government on the occasion of his accession.

23. By the precipitate proceedings of the Resident, the opportunity of marking an important line of policy has been in a great measure lost to the Government, as it would have appeared inconsistent to present a sunnud, and demand a nuzzur from a prince who, by the deliberate act of the British representative, had been already placed on the throne, not so much as the nominee of the paramount power, as the chief succeeding by right to the guddee of his ancestors.

24. We refer your honourable Committee to despatch dated 27 July last, which forms enclosure No. 18, which contains the Resident's defence of his proceedings on this occasion. In our despatch, which forms enclosure No. 16, the reasons are detailed at length which induced us to consider the Resident's explanation unsatisfactory. In our despatch of the 30th September, the Resident submitted a further explanation of his proceedings, and details at length the reasons which induced him to proceed at once to the installation of the Maharaja, without previously communicating to Government, or receiving their instructions on the subject.

25. The Resident informed us, that it had been his constant aim throughout that there should be no doubt that the boy placed on the guddee should be known to all as having been selected by the Governor-general, and he asserted that beyond doubt such was the impression abroad on the subject; while he referred, in corroboration of this view, to khureetas to the address of the Governor-general from the Maharaja and the Mah Sahiba, which were forwarded with his despatch, in both of which it was distinctly stated that his Highness had been placed on the throne through the favour and consideration of the British Government.

26. Under these circumstances, the Resident hoped that the opportunity might not yet be lost to the Government of making an important line of policy, and he recommended that a letter should be addressed by the Governor-general to the Maharaja in reply to his Highness' khureeta, conveying the Governor-general's formal sanction and confirmation of his succession to the chiefship. Such a letter would, in fact, be received as the formal sunnud of appointment, and on its being delivered to the Maharaja, his Highness would present a nuzzur of 101 gold moburs as a mark of dependency. We have accordingly complied with the recommendation of the Resident; a kurreeta has been addressed to the Maharaja, recognizing his Highness as the chief of the Holkar state, and detailing the reasons which induced the Governor-general in Council to maintain the separate existence of the principality, and to select his Highness as the occupant of the vacant guddee.

27. It has been distinctly intimated to his Highness that the state is to descend to the heirs male of his body in lawful succession, and to no others, thus precluding the possibility of adoption; and it has been further explained to his Highness, that the country will be administered in his behalf by a competent regency, acting under the superintendence and instructions of the British Resident, who will also make arrangements for the education of his Highness during his minority: on receipt of this khurreeta, his Highness will present the nuzzur which has been agreed upon.

28. By these means, although our original intention of marking a distinct line of policy on the occasion has not been so completely carried out as we could have desired, yet we trust that enough has been done to stamp the measure as an act of free grace on the part of the paramount power, and to strip the accession of the young chief of all pretension to succession by either hereditary right, or by that of adoption.

We have, &c.

(signed) *H. Hardinge.*
T. H. Maddock.
F. Millett.
George Pollock.

Fort William, 23 December 1844.

Holkar Succession,
1844.

No. 14.

(No. 110.)

From Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, K.C.B., to *F. Currie*, Esq., Secretary to Government of India with the Governor-general; Indore Residency, 2 February 1844.

Sir,

I BEG you will do me the favour to lay before the Right honourable the Governor-general the accompanying report, which Dr. Bruce has, at my request, drawn out respecting the precarious state of health of Maharaja Khundeh Rao.

For my own satisfaction, I visited his Highness the day before the date of that report, and was very much struck with his emaciated and sickly appearance, which has only lately developed itself to any extent, as he appeared in excellent health at the period of his installation, and for some time afterwards.

In the event of a fatal termination to the disease, which, from its nature, the doctor thinks very probable, it will become necessary to consider who should be his successor. I am not aware that the right of election would then remain with any party here, and it might, therefore, be deemed expedient, as an act of grace, to invite Martund Rao to occupy the vacant guddee, or to leave the nomination to the Mae Sahib, the widow of Jeswunt Rao Holkar, and the surviving head of the family. Pending the orders of Government on the subject, it would be my duty to carry on the government, in concert with her, as I am now doing, aided by a Council of Regency, composed of Raja Bhow and Gopaul Rao, the Mayee's own functionary, which I have established to her entire satisfaction.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. M. Wade*,
Resident.

Indore Residency, 2 February 1844.

From Assistant-surgeon *James Bruce* to Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, C.B., Resident at Indore; dated Indore Residency, 18 January 1844.

Sir,

IN compliance with your request to record my opinion of the present state of the young Maharaja, whose illness has, within these few days, undergone so unfavourable a change, I have the honour to inform you, that, to the best of my judgment, his complaint is of such a nature as to render his recovery very improbable, and, though not absolutely precluding the possibility of his restoration, likely to terminate fatally at no distant period.

The origin of his disease appears referable to an eruptive affection of the nature of chicken-pox, which attacked him upwards of a year ago, from which, probably from mismanagement, he never completely recovered, but has been subject, more or less, ever since to febrile affection, gradually increasing: such is the best account I can obtain of his malady, previous to his coming under my care, about two months ago: I then found him labouring under the enomalous* febrile affection alluded to, unlike any regular form of fever, coming on usually in the afternoon, and varying in duration from one to several hours; it appeared to me the hurried irregular circulation which usually attends structural derangement of an important organ, but of such derangement there was no other indication.

I succeeded in tranquillizing this state of excitement, and in curtailing the frequency and duration of the febrile accessions, and he appeared to be convalescent until the 13th instant, when the fatigue occasioned by his being taken to a short distance during a recent festival produced a relapse, and the development of pulmonary symptoms, on which is founded the unfavourable prognosis I have considered it my duty to apprise you of.

I have, &c.

(signed) *James Bruce*,
Assistant-surgeon.

Indore Residency, 18 January 1844.

(No. 280.)

Holkar Succession,
1844.
—

From the Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-general, to Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, K.C.B., Resident at Indore; dated Camp Jehanabad, 8 February 1844.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Governor-general to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d instant, communicating the very precarious state of the health of his Highness the Maharaja Khundee Rao.

2. The Governor-general very much regrets that the Holkar state is likely to be again exposed to all the chances of confusion, which must inevitably attend the succession of any one not directly descended from the reigning sovereign, and having no inherent title to the guddee.

3. The Governor-general does not deem it expedient to favour any pretensions to the guddee, which, in the event of the Maharaja's death, might be advanced by Martund Rao. That person was once rejected by the public feeling, and the British Government saw reason to acquiesce in his rejection, even after he had been acknowledged as successor to the guddee.

4. He then consented to receive a pension on the condition of abandoning all pretension to the guddee, to which he would seem never to have possessed any legitimate claim.

5. At the time of the adoption of Khundee Rao, it appears that there were three boys of the Holkar family, either of whom might have been adopted.

6. It does not appear whether the other two were the brothers of Khundee Rao. It is probable that they were not, as it is not stated that they were, but they may still exist.

7. There appears to have been in 1841 a lady of the Holkar family, Gopna Bacc, of Mahesi, well acquainted with its genealogy, whose knowledge, if she still survives, might be of use in discovering them.

8. The Governor-general is of opinion, that if either of these boys, or any fit person, can be found connected with the family, the more prudent course would perhaps be to concert with the Mahee Sahib the adoption of one of such persons by her Highness.

9. Where, however, there is no person having the shadow of hereditary claim to succeed to the guddee of a native state, and no person possessing a legitimate right to adopt a successor thereto, and where, moreover, that state itself is of comparatively modern origin, owing its existence to a conquest made by predatory troops, it must always become a question how far it may be expedient to maintain the separate existence of that state for the benefit of none but the immediate followers of the court.

10. The Governor-general would wish, that while you are prosecuting your inquiries with respect to the persons who may exist distantly connected with the Holkar family, you should at the same time endeavour to ascertain whether there is any feeling which can be deemed to partake of a national character, for the maintenance of the state itself, under what must be practically the nominal rule of a Maharaja so found.

11. In the event of the decease of the Maharaja before you shall have received any final instructions with respect to a successor, you will continue to conduct the government, as at present, in conjunction with the Maee Sahib.

I have, &c.

(signed) *F. Currie*,

Secretary to the Government of India
with the Governor-general.

Camp, Jehanabad,
8 February 1844.

Holkar Succession,
1844.

(No. 23, of 1844.)

From Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, K.C.B., Resident at Indore, to *F. Currie*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-general; dated Indore Residency, 17 February 1844.

Sir,

1. It is with great regret that I have to report the demise early this morning of Khundeh Rao Holkur, aged fifteen.

2. I proceeded shortly afterwards to the palace, where I found the Mahe Sahib and the relations of the Maharaja weeping over his corpse: she has throughout his illness evinced an interest in his fate, and an anxious desire to console him by her constant attendance, which shows that she sympathises in the sentiments of every one about the court and the people at large, that a youth who appeared so well qualified to fulfil their hopes of good government at a future period should have thus suddenly terminated his promising career.

3. Pending the orders of Government, I have informed the Maee Sahib that no successor would be appointed, the administration of affairs being conducted, as at present, by a council of regency, acting in concert with herself and the Resident; and it is satisfactory to me to report that the manner in which it is working, and the reliance which all parties now seem to have on the determination of the British Government to maintain order, leave no reason whatever to apprehend that any confusion or irregularity will ensue from the early recurrence of another vacancy of the guddee.

4. With regard to the succession of the three boys brought before Hurri Rao Holkar at the time that he adopted Khundeh Rao, Muktajee was the only one between whom and the deceased the choice appears to have laid: he is a first cousin of Khundeh Rao, and about ten years of age. Unless, therefore, the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council should wish to give the Maee Sahib the privilege of making a choice in favour of any of the tribe, excepting Martund Rao, whom she may choose to select, a course which, from the popularity she enjoys, is more likely, I think, to give satisfaction than any other, I would recommend the adoption of Muktajee, to which her assent may doubtless be obtained; but it would then be the act of the British Government, not her own.

5. Though not nearly related to the family, the genealogical table which I submitted with my letter of the 5th March 1843, will show his descent from their common ancestry, and in so far hereditary claim would be respected.

6. The measure of assuming the government of the country ourselves, would, in my humble opinion, be unpopular, and attended with considerable risk to the existence of tranquillity. There is nothing which has tended more to confirm the attachment of the retainers of the state, as well as its subjects, to the authority of our government during the late events which have happened here, and the disturbances at Gwalior, than the impression arising from the disinterested conduct we have manifested in the desire to preserve the integrity of the chiefship in the family to which it has heretofore belonged; and although the feelings of the people may not partake of that decidedly national character by which we are accustomed to view them in other countries, yet where there is no actual oppression or misrule urging them on to wish for a change of government, they have a respect for existing institutions, and a pride in their continuance in the family which they have long been in the habit of acknowledging as their head, that would induce them to view any such design on the part of our Government with a strong aversion.

I have, &c.

(signed)

C. M. Wade,
Resident.

Indore Residency.
17 February 1844.

(No. 175, of 1844.)

From *P. Currie*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to Lieutenant-colonel Sir *C. M. Wade*, K. C. B., Resident at Indore; dated Fort William, 1 March 1844.

Holkar Succession,
1841.
—

Sir,

THE Governor-general in Council has had under his consideration your letter of the 17th ult., announcing the demise of the Maharaja Kunder Rao, and offering, as your suggestion for the carrying on of the government in the Holkar family, either that Mahahjee, a cousin of the late Maharaja, and now nine or ten years old, should be by us declared the successor, or that the Mahie Sahib, who has no legitimate right to adopt a successor, should be invited by us to adopt any member of the family other than Martund Rao.

2. You do not consider that there will be any present practical difficulty in carrying on the government as it has been lately constituted.

3. Under these circumstances, the Governor-general in Council deems the most expedient course to be that of leaving the government, for a time at least, as it now stands, with the Maee Sahib at its head, aided by the British Resident.

4. Of Mahahjee we know nothing, except that Khunder Rao was preferred to him: he is very young; he has no near connexion with the Holkar family, and it would appear to be, under any circumstances, desirable that we should have some little time to consider in what hands it would be most expedient to place the future government, to which no one seems to have the shadow of an hereditary claim.

5. The Maee Sahib must receive the assurances of our decided support while she may act as the head of the state; and it must be made known distinctly to the sirdars, and to all the subjects of the state, that we shall regard with severe displeasure any attempt to put forward in any manner the pretensions of Martund Rao, or of any one else, to the guddee.

I have, &c.

Fort William, 1 March 1844.

(signed) *F. Currie*,
Secretary to the Government of India.

(No. 742, of 1844.)

From *F. Currie*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to *R. N. C. Hamilton*, Esq., Resident at Indore; dated Fort William, 27 April 1844.

Sir,

IT would appear to be necessary that the British Government should in some manner intervene at the present crisis for the establishment of a government in Holkar's dominions, the late Raja having no heir, and no one having a legal right to adopt a successor to the guddee.

2. Muktajee, the son of Santajee, a cousin of the late Raja, a boy of ten years of age, was considered to have pretensions from his birth similar to those of the late Raja, and was, together with the late Raja, brought before Hurry Rao Holkar for his selection, but the late Raja was then preferred.

3. The Governor-general in Council desires that you will endeavour to inform yourself with respect to the health and disposition of this boy, and as to the character of his father, Santajee, and of any other relatives he may have, and that you will report thereupon as early as possible.

4. It will not be inexpedient that, after you have made the first inquiries upon this point, you should allow it to be known that you were so engaged.

5. The knowledge generally diffused will allay any anxiety which may be entertained with respect to our intentions, and may enable you to form some judgment as to the general wishes with respect to the succession of any individual to the guddee.

I have, &c.

Fort William, 27 April 1844.

(signed) *F. Currie*,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Holkar Succession,
1844.

(No. 72, of 1844.)

EXTRACT Letter from the Resident at Indore to the Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William; dated 20 May 1844.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your despatch, No. 742, dated 27 April.

2. I trust the information I am about to lay before the Governor-general in Council may be deemed sufficient to enable his Lordship in Council to come to a decision regarding the succession to, and occupation of, the guddee of the Holkar state.

3. I have distinctly declared to all parties, that the late Raja having no heir, and no one having a regal right to adopt a successor, the nomination of a person to occupy the guddee rests solely with the Governor-general. To this all assent; and while the anxiety to see the guddee occupied is great, the intention of the Governor-general not to allow the family and name of Holkar to become extinct, is received by all classes with gratitude.

* * * * *

11. I will now advert to those from whom the future Raja may be selected.

12. In looking for a successor, attention would naturally be attracted to the two cousins of the late Raja, the sons of Sontajee, who were brought before Hurree Rao Holkar when he had determined to adopt a successor.

13. I have never seen either of the two boys at any time. I have visited the Durbar; I have heard that their parents had no wish that either should be exposed to the risk which they consider would attend a succession to the guddee, after the unhappy and early demise of Khundeh Rao.

14. The real fact is, their father is a person of no importance; had never the *entrée* to the Durbar, and is not an individual who enjoys any consideration.

15. The Mah Sahib does not consider these boys as entitled to be elevated to the guddee; she was not consulted by Hurree Rao when he made the adoption, nor did she know who were the boys that were brought before him: the party who were around Hurree Rao profited by his aversion to the Mah Sahib, and kept her away until his life was despaired of, when they, wishing to benefit by her Highness's influence, urged him to allow the Mah Sahibeh to visit Indore, and on the certainty of the Raja's demise (the child of their adoption not being popular), the Mahjee was invited from Maheysir, and arrived shortly before Hurree Holkar's death.

16. Immediately after the Maharaja's decease, the Mah Sahibeh recognized Khundeh Rao as the heir, announced his succession, and thus that event passed off without any public expression of disapprobation.

17. The influence of the Mah Sahibeh, I have reason to believe, was exerted at this period to maintain order; her Highness's conduct was decided and firm; her bearing towards the young Rajah then, and her subsequent care and attention of him in his illness, made a great impression on the people, and are spoken of with much feeling by all.

18. Raja Bhao would like to see the succession confirmed to one of these two boys, he being the person who brought them with Khundeh Rao before Hurree Holkar; but he also told me, when discussing the subject, there were others who were equally eligible, and mentioned the sons of one Suntojee, of Simrole, a village near Indore.

19. I have no reason to believe that either of these boys would be acceptable to the people; and as they never held any position or rank about the court, and have been withdrawn entirely from the Durbar, they may be said to have passed out of public consideration.

20. I have had frequent conferences with the Mah Sahibeh, and have spoken with others directly interested in the question, with a view to obtain the most accurate data on which a judgment might be formed. It is generally known that the question is occupying my attention, and that it has been discussed at the palace, and a general desire prevails for its settlement.

21. The Mah Sahibeh sent to request I would come to the Durbar: the day before yesterday (Saturday) I went. Gopal Rao Baba, by whom the message was delivered, told me, her Highness had been weighing well what I had urged at the last interview, and being now very anxious that the Governor-general should finally settle the question of succession, that that was the object for which she wished me to come.

22. After

22. After the Durbar was cleared, and only the Tac Sahib remained, the Mahjee said she had reflected on all I had said to her; that she placed unbounded confidence in the justice, the benevolence, and the good feeling of the British Government; that in whatever the Governor-general would decide, she would sincerely acquiesce, being convinced it would be for the good of the state, and for the perpetuating of the Holkar name; that, according to the rites of Hindoo law, the Tac, as widow of Mulhar Rao, had adopted Martund Rao, against whose descent there never had been an objection, and who, after having been seated on the guddee, was ejected by Hurree Holkar; that he was then a child, was still a minor, and was not accountable for the actions of others; that since his ejection he had lived peaceably, and had not, nor had his family, participated, though often tried, in any intrigues against the state; that on the death of Hurree Holkar she had recognized the adoption of Khundeh Rao, and exerted herself to secure him the guddee; that it had pleased God to cut him off; that the guddee was vacant; that the Governor-general had treated her with the greatest consideration in entrusting her with the government; that she was only anxious to see the throne filled by one of the real family, and that she could not, in the face of her religion and her pledge, disguise her desire to see Martund Rao placed by the Governor-general on the guddee; that she was convinced such a step would give universal satisfaction, and be grateful to the people; but that if his Lordship would not approve of Martund Rao, it was his fate, and she must bow to the decree; in this event, that his youngest brother was the next most eligible, and if there was an objection to Martund Rao and his brother, that the younger of the two sons of Bhow Holkar, now at Indore, was the boy she considered eligible to be the future Maharaja: with this expression of her wishes, Her Highness said she would resign the matter entirely in his Lordship's hands, only hoping that it might be speedily decided, as the want of a head to the state was embarrassing to public business, led to intrigues, and moreover, that the wishes of the people were strong that the guddee should not remain vacant.

23. I alluded to Mokturjee, the cousin of Khundeh Rao, as a boy who might be put on the guddee: Her Highness observed, that his father was nobody, of no character and no weight, and that the boy had no pretensions, and had her opinion been consulted by Hurree Holkar, he would never have been brought forward.

24. I then adverted to Santojee, of Simrole, the person alluded to by Raja Bhao, to which she observed, that he was not much better; that if the claims of such families were to be considered, there were no end of boys; they were all children of no rank, and it was immaterial which of them was selected.

25. I may add, that the troops are devoted to the Mah Sahibeh, for whom they entertain the greatest respect; that they revert to the days of Jeswunt Rao, when the Mah Sahibeh shared the fortunes of the army in the field, and that she has ever maintained a high character for her kindness of disposition and benevolence of her rule.

26. Of Martund Rao I have no personal knowledge: the following extract from a letter from the magistrate of Poonah,* Mr. Stewart, dated 4th December 1843, describes him favourably:—

Para. 3. "Martund Rao is a very intelligent lad, and states all that he knows very openly; and if any intrigue is in existence, I believe him to be ignorant of it: he expresses himself grateful to the British Government for its succour in his distress when he sought its protection, and declares that he has no wish or intention to act otherwise than according to the directions of Government."

27. I believe I have in the foregoing stated the facts with impartiality, and I trust with sufficient clearness to admit the Governor-general in Council deciding who shall be selected to occupy the vacant guddee, and I shall be happy to receive his Lordship's decision on this point. From inquiries in different quarters, I believe the general wish in respect to the successor to the guddee to be in favour of Martund Rao.

* To the Secretary
to the Government
at Bombay.

Holkar Succession,
1844.

(No. 1218.)

From *F. Currie*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to *R. N. C. Hamilton*, Esq., Resident at Indore; dated Fort William, 8 June 1844.

Sir,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th ultimo, No. 72, relating to the succession to the guddee of Indore, and stating particularly the substance of a conversation you had had with the Mah Sahibeh upon that subject.

2. Were the question of Martund Rao's succession altogether new, and his eligibility were now to be considered, together with that of the other boys of the Holkar family under precisely similar circumstances, the Governor-general might have been disposed to meet the expressed wishes of the Mah Sahibeh, by selecting Martund Rao for the guddee; but Martund Rao having been once already upon the guddee, by reason of legal or pretended adoption, his restoration now would have, to a certain degree, the appearance of a succession by legitimate right; whereas inasmuch as he has really no legal claim, and the guddee is really vacant, and no one of the Holkar family now possess the right of adopting a successor thereto, it seems desirable that the selection of a successor should be manifestly the sole act of the British Government as the paramount protecting state.

3. Further, as, after having acknowledged Martund Rao as Maharaja, we saw fit in a few days, in consequence of the demonstration of popular feeling in favour of Hurree Rao, to acquiesce in the dethronement and expulsion of Martund Rao, and to acknowledge Hurree Rao as Maharaja; and as we subsequently acknowledged Kundee Rao, who was adopted by Hurree Rao, to the continued exclusion of Martund Rao, it would seem to be most consistent with the character of our government to adhere to the course twice pursued, and to reject the claims of Martund Rao on this occasion as they were rejected before.

4. It is far better to adhere to a course once adopted, than to change that course upon any but very grave and decided grounds of expediency, and especially where the change would give an appearance of triumph to a party still pertinaciously kept up, notwithstanding the discountenance of our government.

5. It cannot but be in reality a matter of much indifference to the subjects of the Holkar state which of the eligible boys be placed upon the guddee under the Mah Sahibeh, who is alone an object of respect; and it will certainly be more convenient to her Highness that the Maharaja who may be selected should be altogether without any pretensions to the guddee but such as he will derive from being placed there by the British Government.

6. It is not obvious why the youngest son, rather than the eldest son, of Bhow Holkar should be deemed by the Mah Sahibeh to be the most eligible person after Martund Rao and his brother; perhaps her Highness may see some convenience to herself in a more protracted minority. It is not a matter upon which, without grave reasons, the Governor-general in Council would be disposed to thwart the Mah Sahibeh's wishes at the time when he overrules her Highness' desire for the succession of Martund Rao; and if no such reasons should, upon inquiry, appear to you to exist, you are authorized to inform her Highness that the Governor-general in Council having taken into consideration all past occurrences, and the present position of the Holkar state, has formed the conclusion that it is most for the benefit of the state that the younger son of Bhow Holkar should succeed to the guddee.

7. It is to be regretted that we should have no information as to the character or circumstances of Bhow Holkar, or as to the age or health, or disposition of his two sons. If your inquiries upon these heads should lead you to entertain doubts as to the expediency of selecting either of the boys for the guddee, you will not make any decided communication to the Mah Sahibeh in favour of either of them without further instructions.

I have, &c.

Fort William, 8 June 1844.

(signed) *F. Currie*,
Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 88, of 1844.

(No. 892.)

From *R. N. C. Hamilton*, Esq., Resident at Indore, to *F. Currie*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India; dated Indore Residency, 24 June 1844.

Sir,

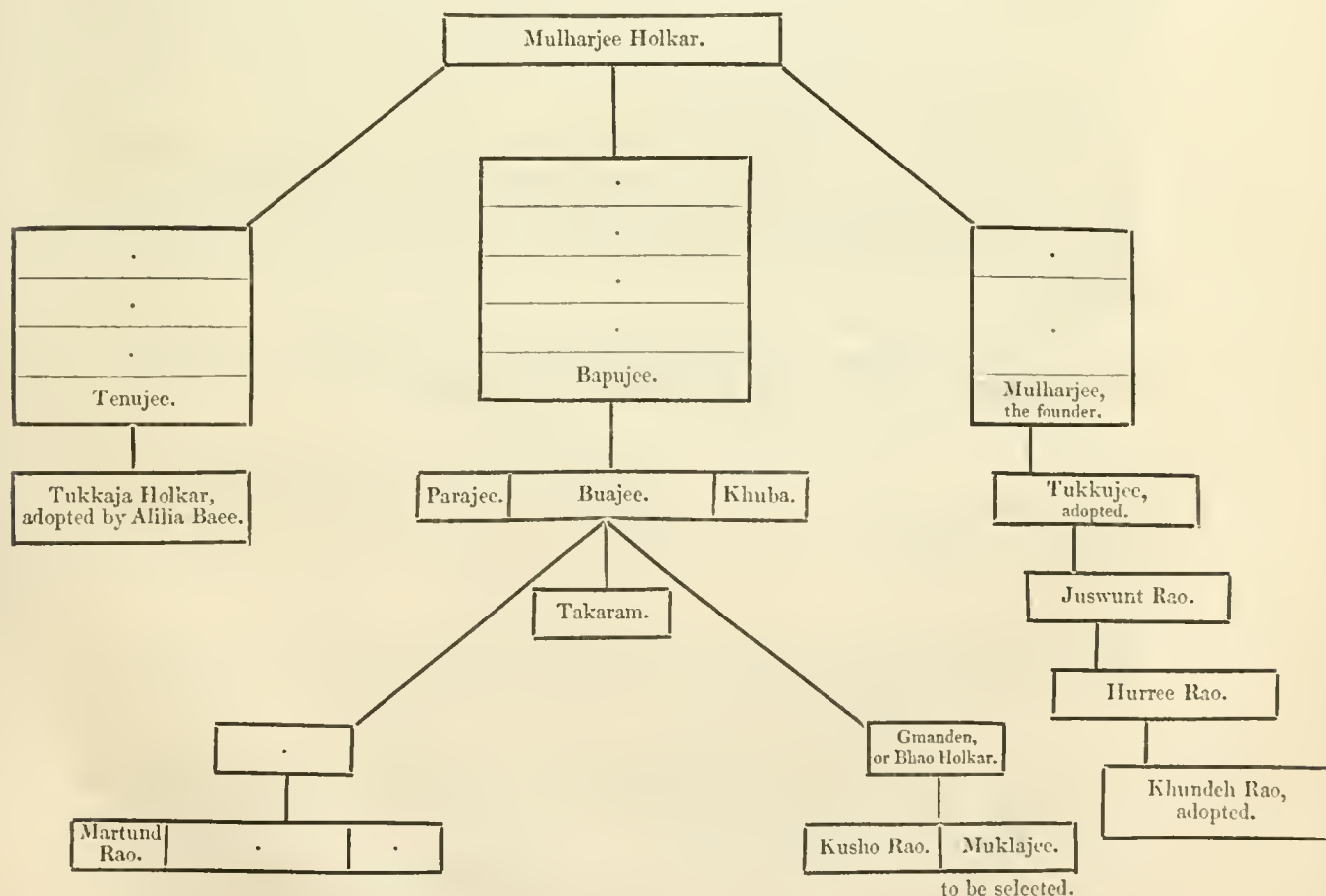
I HAVE had the honour to receive your letter No. 1218, dated 8th instant.

2. Immediately on its receipt, I intimated to the Mah Sahibeh my intention to visit the durbar on the following morning.

3. Her Highness received me as usual in full durbar, which after a short time was cleared, and I remained with my first assistant alone with the Mah Sahibeh and the Tai Sahibeh.

4. I then communicated to her Highness the purport of your despatch under acknowledgment. Her Highness received the communication with extreme good taste; she observed, she had done that which she conceived her duty, in urging the claims of Martund Rao; that having so done, the question remained for the superior judgment of the Governor-general; that she was much gratified by the continued consideration shown to her by his Lordship, and grateful that the succession to the Holkar state was determined in the family of Bhow Holkar; that her anxiety was only for the welfare of the state, and for the continued support and favour of the British Government; and her Highness desired me to convey her most grateful acknowledgments at the Governor-general in Council having been pleased to authorize a successor to ascend the guddee.

5. I then inquired whether her Highness had lately seen the two sons of Bhow Holkar, and where they now were, and was informed that they were constantly about the palace, and lived in an adjoining street. Her Highness proposed to send for them, but this I declined. The marginal abstract (from the genealogical tree of the family, transmitted to government on the 2 March 1843, No. 23,) will show the direct descent of Bhow Holkar. The youngest boy, Mulhagee by name, appears to have been selected with no view to a longer



minority, but because he was the more comely and healthy child, and his horoscope the most fortunate; having satisfied myself that there was no reasonable ground to interfere with the selection. I proposed to her Highness to call

Holkar Succession,
1844.

call in the ministry, and inform them what had been discussed, and on their coming in, I recapitulated to them the contents of your despatch, and what had passed between myself and the Mah Sahibeh, and that the younger son of Bhow Holkar was to be considered the successor to the guddee; they unanimously approved of the selection, and after some conversation it was arranged that the father, Bhow Holkar, and the two sons, should be presented to me in durbar on the following day, Saturday.

6. A discussion arose as to the name under which the boy should ascend the guddee, and what should be the designation on the seal, and this, though apparently, is not in reality an unimportant point; I observed it would be desirable, if possible, that the boy should bear the name most distinguished in the family.

Mulhar Rao Soot Tukkahee;
Tukkahee Soot Jeswunt Rao;
Jeswunt Rao Soot Mulhar Rao;
Jeswunt Rao Soot Hurree Rao;
Hurree Rao Soot Khundeh Rao.

7. The founder of the state was the great Mulhar Rao; he was succeeded by Tukkahee Holkar, who bore on his seal Mulhar Rao Soot Tukkahee, and the several seals from that time are noted in the margin.

8. The boy's own name being Mulharjee, cannot, according to the established custom, be continued. He could not be called Khundeh Rao; or Hurree Rao; the choice remained then between Tukkahee and Jeswunt Rao. I observed that Jeswunt Rao Soot Tukkahee seemed to me most in accordance with precedent, and that, if not objectionable, was the one that I would announce as the name, after seeing the boys at the durbar.

9. On Saturday afternoon I proceeded to the durbar, accompanied by my first and second assistant and Dr. Bruce; the durbar was most crowded; the different vakeels at Indore were present, and the greatest interest appeared to be excited. Bhow Holkar and his two sons were introduced. The father is an elderly man, the elder son is about 13 years of age, slight, dark and intelligent looking, the younger about 10, a fine boy, with a good clear countenance.

10. I then explained to all present the intention of the British Government, its desire to perpetuate the Holkar state by the selection of a successor to the guddee from amongst those eligible to such distinction; that the Mah Sahibeh had pointed out the younger son of Bhow Holkar as a fit successor; that the Governor-general having a great respect for the Mah Sahibeh, had been pleased to authorize me to declare that the British Government had determined to place the younger son of Bhow Holkar on the guddee; that he would be named Tukkahee Holkar, and that he would be installed in due form under the style and title of Jeswunt Rao Soot Tukkahee Holkar.

11. Only eight days remaining in this year, within which, if the installation did not take place, an interval of six months must elapse, the Mah Sahibeh and the whole court were anxious that the installation should be fixed for Thursday the 27th instant, which had been ascertained to be the lucky day for so great a ceremony; to this I assented, and on the 27th I propose to place the boy on the guddee.

12. I have invited the officer commanding the Mhow field force, with his staff, to be present, and have been guided by the arrangements made in November last, in the ceremonies and preparations for this occasion.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. N. C. Hamilton,*
Resident.

Indore Residency,
24 June 1844.

(No. 1572 of 1844.)

EXTRACT Letter from the Secretary to the Government of India to the Resident at Indore; dated Fort William, 9 July 1844.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th ultimo, No. 88, acquainting me, for the information of the Governor-general in Council, with the steps taken by you in consequence of the instructions communicated to you in my letter of the 8th ultimo.

2. It appears, that having immediately on receipt of my letter intimated to the Mah Sahibeh your intention of visiting the durbar on the following morning, you did so accordingly, and that after the durbar was moved, you remained with your first assistant alone with the Mah Sahibeh and the Tai Sahibeh, and then communicated the substance of my letter; that her Highness the Mah Sahibeh stated,

stated, that she had done what she conceived to be her duty in urging the claims of Martund Rao; that having done that, the question remained with the Governor-general to decide, and that she was grateful that the succession to the Holkar state was determined in the family of Bhow Holkar.

* * * * *

6. To the ministers you recapitulated the contents of my letter, and what had passed between you and the Mah Sahibeh, and that the younger son of Bhow Holkar was to be considered the successor to the guddee. Of this selection they unanimously approved.

7. At the durbar on the following day, when Bhow Holkar and his two sons, the different vakeels at Indore, and a large number of persons were present, you explained the desire of the British Government to perpetuate the Holkar state by the selection of a successor to the guddee from amongst those eligible to such distinction; that the Mah Sahibeh had pointed out the younger son of Bhow Holkar as a fit successor, that the Governor-general having a great respect for the Mah Sahibeh had been pleased to authorize you to declare that the British Government had determined to place the younger son of Bhow Holkar on the guddee.

8. You were authorized, if no grave reasons should upon inquiry appear to you to exist to dispose the Governor-general in Council to thwart the Mah Sahibeh's wishes in favour of Bhow Holkar's second son, to inform Her Highness that the Governor-general in Council, having taking into consideration all past occurrences, and the present position of the Holkar state, had formed the conclusion that it was most for the benefit of the state that the younger son of Bhow Holkar should succeed to the guddee, but you were only authorized to make this communication after inquiry. You were only authorized to make it to the Mah Sahibeh herself; you were not authorized to make a public communication to this effect in durbar; still less were you authorized in durbar to explain the desire of the British Government to perpetuate the Holkar state, or to speak of making a selection from amongst those who were eligible, or to refer to the Mah Sahibeh's having pointed out the younger son of Bhow Holkar, or to refer to the great respect of the Governor-general for the Mah Sahibeh as the motive which had induced the British Government to place that boy on the guddee.

9. You were not authorized to say anything which could by possibility be held to bind the British Government to the adoption of a course similar to that now adopted, in the event of a similar vacancy of the guddee; you were in no respect to bind up the hands of the Government for the future; you were not to use any expressions which could by possibility be interpreted as conveying the sanction of the British Government to an adoption of a successor to the guddee by the Mah Sahibeh. The Governor-general in Council would fain hope that you left upon the minds of all the impression that the younger son of Bhow Holkar was placed upon the guddee by the mere will of the British Government.

* * * * *

11. The Governor-general in Council awaits with some anxiety your report of the actual proceedings on the occasion of the installation of the Mah Sahibeh, and until that report shall be received, no further instructions can be issued to you; but I may inform you that the present intention of the Governor-general in Council is to transmit to you for delivery to the Maharaja, a sunnud nominating his Highness to the guddee, and to intimate at the same time the amount of the nuzzur which it will be proper that the Maharaja should present to the British Government.

12. You cannot but feel how much more easily these matters would have been arranged had you confined yourself, according to your instructions, to acquainting the Mah Sahibeh with the intentions of the Government in favour of the younger son of Bhow Holkar, after you had ascertained, by inquiry, that no grave reason existed against his being selected in preference to his elder brother; that which would have involved no difficulty, after a simple declaration of intention privately communicated, after a mere designation of a successor to the guddee, may not be without some attendant embarrassment when the Maharaja has been publicly installed.

I have, &c.

(signed) *F. Currie*,
Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Fort William, 9 July 1844.

Holkar Succession,
1844.

No. 94, of 1844.

(No. 952.)

From *R. N. C. Hamilton*, Esq., Resident at Indore, to *F. Currie*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India; dated Indore Residency, 8 July 1844.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit two khurreetas, with translations annexed, one from the Maharaja Tookoojee Holkar, and the other from her Highness the Mah Sahibeh to the address of the Governor-general of India, on the occasion of his Highness's accession to the guddee of the Holkar state.

2. I have much satisfaction in being able to report, that the intelligence of the installation of the young Maharaja has been received throughout the state with unfeigned satisfaction and delight.

3. The evening after the installation, there was a banquet, followed by a display of fireworks, given at the palace, to which all the gentlemen who were present at the ceremony were invited.

4. I was much gratified by an unexpected proposal on the part of the Mah Sahibeh and the Maharaja, to visit me at the residency on the following day.

5. The Maharaja came in state, attended by all the sirdars and officers of the court, and her Highness was accompanied by the Tai Sahibeh, the Hurkui Bhae (widow of Hurree Holkar), Sakko Bhai (wife of Raja Bhow), and the daughter of Gunput Rao, with a suite of 13 female attendants.

8. Such a visit, I am informed, has not been paid to any of my predecessors; it can only be attributed, as it was intended, to mark the satisfaction which the settlement of the question of succession had created; and on this account, I notice it thus prominently for the Governor-general's information.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. N. C. Hamilton*,

Indore Residency, 8 July 1844.

Resident.

TRANSLATION of a Khurreeta from his Highness the *Tookajee Holkar*, to the address of the Right honourable the Governor-general of India; dated 5 July 1844.

After preliminary compliments,

A FORMER communication from the Resident will have apprised you of the death of his late Highness Khundee Rao Holkar, which occurred on the 17th February last, to the great grief of myself, as well as all the other subjects of the state. All the customary sacrifices and native offerings were made, out of respect to his memory. At the conclusion of the days of mourning, by your great kindness and consideration, I was duly installed as successor to the vacant "guddee," at an auspicious time and moment fixed on by the astrologers, in the presence of the Resident, general officer commanding at Mhow, and a great many gentlemen who had come to witness the ceremony. The "khillut" conferred on me by the British Government was to me as a tower of strength and confidence; it will be the chief object of my government to afford protection to and in every way conciliate my subjects. On the strength of the intimate friendship which has existed for so long a period between this and the British Government, I have written this letter to you, feeling convinced that you will participate in the joy experienced by all on this happy occasion, and I hope you will look on me as one of your friends and well wishers, and gladden me by accounts of your health and happiness.

(True translation.)

(signed) *A. Harris*,
Second Assistant to Resident.

TRANSLATION of a Khurreeta from her Highness *Krishna Bacc*, to the Address of the Right honourable the Governor-general of India; dated 5 July 1844.

Holkar Succession,
1844.
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After preliminary compliments,

EXPRESSES the deep grief she had experienced at the death of the late Maharaja Khundee Rao Holkar, which melancholy event occurred on the 17th February last, and that every respect had been shown by her to his memory in the due performance of the usual rites and sacrifices prescribed for such occasions; that the days of mourning had been succeeded by those of joy, on hearing that a successor to the vacant "guddee" had been selected by you in the person of Mulharjee Holkar, the younger son of Bhao Holkar, and who had accordingly been duly installed on the 27th June 1844, under the style and title of Jeswunt Rao Soot Tookajee Holkar Bahadoor, at the hour and minute pointed out by the astrologers as one of happy and auspicious omen. The installation took place under your favour, by the Resident, in the presence of the general officer commanding at Mhow, and a number of other gentlemen. Thus is the Holkar dynasty again established on its former footing, to the great delight and satisfaction of all the subjects of the state, in which you, as a friend to this Government, will, I am sure, participate, and the regret felt for the death of the Maharaja be merged in pleasure at the accession of the present one. May you occasionally gladden me with tidings of your welfare and happiness.

(True translation.)

(signed) *A. Harris*,
Second Assistant to Resident.

No. 106.

EXTRACT Letter from the Resident at Indore to Secretary to the Government of India; dated Indore Residency, 27 July 1844.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your letter No. 1,572, dated 9th instant, and to request you will submit to the Governor-general in Council the following explanations on certain points therein noticed, on which I regret my report should not have been sufficiently explicit.

* * * * *

The orders of the Governor-general, in paras. 7 and 8 of your letter, No. 1,218, dated 8 June, seemed to me clear and decided, that if I found, on inquiry, no grave reasons to object to the Mah Sahibeh's wishes, that I was authorized to make a decided communication to her Highness, that the younger son of Bhow Holkar would be placed by the British Government upon the guddee; my previous inquiries satisfied me on the point. I was quite prepared, on receipt of your letter No. 1,218, to announce the decision, should nothing occur at the durbar to raise a doubt.

4. I therefore went to the durbar on the morning of Friday the 21st June, with my mind made up as to the course to be pursued; what passed with the Mah Sahibeh is detailed in paragraph 4 of my letter, No. 88: the reason why I declined seeing Bhow Holkar and his two sons on the Mah Sahibeh's proposal, when alone with her, was, that had they then been sent for, intelligence of what was passing would thus have reached the rival factions, and an unnecessary irritation might have been aroused.

5. On such considerations I had the ministers called in before I left the Mah Sahibeh, and in her Highness's presence the whole question in all its bearings was discussed, and I explained to them the intentions of the Governor-general, so that no misrepresentations or jealousies should be created, and no party appear to have a triumph.

6. I found Raja Bhow (who had named the sons of Suntajee, of Simrole), with the other members of the ministry, cordial towards Bhow Holkar, and no doubts existing in my mind, I then announced that the younger son of Bhow Holkar was to be considered the successor to the ghuddee; and it was arranged that the father and his sons should be presented to me in durbar the following evening, Saturday.

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7. Thus the announcement of a successor, instead of being made by the Mah Sahibeh alone, was made by the Council of Regency, after the rival parties had had the actual state of the question placed clearly before them; and after I had fully satisfied myself that no grave reasons existed against the selection, and the announcement thus made caused the selection to be viewed as the sole act of the British Government.

8. I must repeat, that in no part throughout the discussions have I laid greater stress than in my declarations that the guddee was vacant without an heir, without any one having a legal right to adopt a successor, and that the nomination of any one to occupy it rested solely with the Governor-general.—[*Vide* Paragraph 3, No. 72.]

9. This has been my public declaration on every occasion, not only to the members of the Holkar Durbar, but to the several chiefs, vakeels, and others with whom I have constant intercourse, and I venture to say, that not a shadow

* *Translate.*—From the Akhbar: “It is heard that the Sahiban Allishan (British Government), through the considerations which betoken greatness, have placed a boy on the musnud of Holkar, and that at Indore great rejoicings existed, and salutes had been fired.”

of doubt exists on this head. The khurreeta from the Mah Sahibeh, forwarded with my despatch, No. 94, dated 8th July, notices this distinctly; and that such is the impression abroad is corroborated by the marginal* translation of an extract from the native “Akhbar” of Gwalior, which forms an enclosure to this despatch.

10. It was to learn who was the selected individual that caused the crowded attendance at the durbar on the Saturday evening: I then and there distinctly repeated, that the guddee was vacant, that there was no heir, that no one had a right to adopt, that the Governor-general had determined to select a successor to perpetuate, that is, to “preserve from extinction” the reasut, and that that successor was the younger son of Bhow Holkar, who was then seated before me, and who I announced as the future Raja, under the style and title of Jeswunt Rao Soot Tookujie Holkar.

Vide Para. 3, No. 72.

21. With regard to the remarks in your 11th paragraph, I beg to state there is no obstacle to the Governor-general fulfilling his intention of transmitting a sunnud for delivery to the Maharaja, should such be still deemed expedient; such a document will be a far greater confirmation of his position than any that could have been contemplated.

23. In respect to the nuzzur, there will be no hesitation on the part of the durbar instantly to comply with such a requisition; it occurs to me that it may now be made without that liability to misconstruction which would have attached to it, had it formed a preliminary to the acknowledgment of the successor to the guddee.

24. At present there are rather less than two lacs of rupees in the treasury; the expenditure has not yet been brought fairly within the income, and the resources of the state, during the minority, will require to be carefully husbanded; they may be assumed as under 15 lacs per annum.

25. I may here add, that our Government have been put to no expense on account of the kheluts presented by me to the Maharaja and others, on the occasion of the installation, the whole of the costs, amounting to about 27,000 rupees, being defrayed by the durbar.

26. In conclusion, I must repeat, that the act of the Governor-general has been received with the greatest enthusiasm and gratitude; that the anxiety and restlessness which prevailed have been allayed; that the guns which were in position around the palace, and at different commanding points in the town, have, with the detachments of troops, been withdrawn to their cantonments; that in no way have I bound, by any act of mine, the hands of the Government for the future, nor have I said or done anything that could by possibility, be held to bind the British Government to the adoption of a course similar to that now adopted, in the event of a similar vacancy in the guddee.

(No. 2,218.)

EXTRACT Letter from Secretary to the Government of India to the Resident at Indore; dated 14 September 1844.

12. It is not necessary now to advert particularly to the intentions which were entertained by the Governor-general in Council with regard to the nomination on this occasion of a successor to an extensive independent principality, left

left without a legal heir, and of the mode in which it was proposed to mark the difference of the position in respect to the paramount state of the chief of its selection, from one who might succeed in due course to the guddee of his ancestors.

13. The opportunity of marking an important line of policy has been lost to the Government by your proceedings on this occasion; for in the face of what you, as the representative of the British Government, and in its name, have done, as above described, it would be, the Governor-general in Council considers, inconsistent to offer to the young chief a *sunnud* of appointment, and to demand from him a *nuzzur*, the mark of subordination and dependence.

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1844.

(No. 137, of 1844.)

EXTRACT Letter from the Resident at Indore to the Secretary to the Government of India; dated Indore Residency, 30 September 1844.

9. HAVING stated the circumstances upon which I acted, I yet hope that the opportunity may not be lost to the Government for marking an important line of policy, and with deference would submit the following observations for the consideration of the Governor-general in Council.

10. I do not presume that it was ever intended that a new dynasty should be founded in the person put by the British Government on the vacant guddee; such a procedure would have led to much embarrassment, for the Holkar state has engagements existing with Grassiah and other chiefs, who would have been all more or less affected by the change, and coercion towards some would undoubtedly have been required: that which I understood to have been desired was, that the person elected as successor should owe his title to the paramount state, and be subordinate thereto, but not that his position should be lowered, or the state degraded in the eyes of its neighbours.

11. Under this impression I adhered to the former precedent in my arrangements for the installation, on which occasion a similar salute, 21 guns, was fired by the European horse artillery, leaving the presentation of a *nuzzur* to the Governor-general, until the receipt of the Governor-general's *khurreetas*.

12. The replies to these *khurreetas*, literal translations* of which are annexed, have not yet reached me; the *darbar* are anxiously looking to their receipt as conveying the Governor-general's final sanction and confirmation, and the Maharaja, as arranged by me, is prepared to offer a *nuzzur* of 101 gold mohurs to the Governor-general of India, as the paramount power, on the delivery by me of the Governor-general's reply.

* Enclosures
Nos. 4 and 5.

13. In point of fact, the first *khurreeta* of the Governor-general to the Maharaja is the *sunnud* confirming his position, and the arrangement I had proposed will yet, I hope, be allowed to be carried out.

14. I would further beg to suggest, that the following points should be prominently noticed in the Governor-general's *khurreeta* to both the Maharaja and the Mah Sahibeh; first, that the future succession should be distinctly limited to the heirs male of the Maharaja's body lawfully begotten; this will effectually put an end to the objectionable system of adoption, one to which the reigning prince is seldom, if ever, a voluntary party, and which in the instance of the late Kundeh Rao was decidedly repugnant to the feelings of Hurree Rao. Secondly, that the Maharaja be informed that all existing arrangements with other chiefs are to be considered as in full force. Thirdly, that the Resident for the time being shall exercise general superintendence over the affairs of the state during the minority, and that on a report from him of the Maharaja's ability to rule, the Governor general reserves to himself the power of transferring the ordinary functions of government to the hands of the Maharaja; and, lastly, that attention to the Maharaja's education be distinctly enjoined.

15. Should the adoption of the course I have ventured to propose be approved by the Governor-general in Council, the desire of Government to mark the peculiar circumstances under which the Maharaja has been placed upon the vacant guddee by the paramount power, will be clearly and distinctly established, whilst the Maharaja will enjoy his honours without having an altered position in point of rank amongst the chiefs of Malwa.

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A LITERAL Translation of a Letter from *Kristna Bae Sahibeh* to the Address of the Right honourable *W. Bird*, Governor-general of India; dated 5 July 1844.

After compliments,

THE demise of the minor Maharaja Khundee Rao Holkar, of a mortal disease, on the 27th of Mohurum 1260 (17 February 1844), (of which you have learnt by the correspondence of the late Resident), having made the heart an abode of sorrow, melancholy and lamentation, and the world appear darkness to the eyes, causing every variety of mourning and dejection, till the very skirts of the heart for a long time were absorbed in the funeral of this paralysing catastrophe, and the mind remained long groaning under the press of this grief. Resigned at length to the will of Providence, and without other remedy, having recourse to patience, the soul of that departed one to the eternal World was feasted with charities given in its memory.

After enduring countless grief, and tasting of the bitterness of accumulated reverses of fortune, a soothing breeze of prosperity softly arose from a favourable quarter, and the dawn of happiness commenced to shed its pale glow from the horizon, of propitiousness and good fortune; that is to say, your determination was to select and seat upon the guddee ("Tujweez") Mulharjee Holkar, the younger son of Bhow Holkar, related in caste and fraternity to this family of renown. Accordingly on the 10th of Jumadee ool Akhir, 1260 H. (27 June 1844), the said Mulharjee Holkar (being named Jeswunt Rao Soot Tookkoojee Holkar BuhaCoor), when the sun had attained nearly a vertical height in the sky, at the happy and most welcome moment fixed upon by the learned astrologers, was seated on the throne of greatness and fortune entirely by your kindness and favour, by the hand of Mr. Hamilton, the Resident, in the presence of other distinguished British officers. The garden of this chiefship, the Holkar family, has thus been watered afresh, and obtained a new inestimable verdure. The high palace of this great family has in the person of this occupant of the throne of power thus found a deeply rooted stability; the gates of unbounded joy, delight and enjoyment, have now been thrown open to those connected with this government, and to the people of all rank and age in the town and country. Thus have all the former catastrophes been supplanted.

The subsistence of friendly relations between the two high Governments being too well known to the people of all rank and grade, it is hoped that you also may have been so excessively pleased to hear of these joyous occurrences, as entirely to forget all the grief caused by past events, and that, knowing me anxious to learn of your good health, you will continue to contribute to my happiness by writing to me on the subject.

(A true translation.)

(signed) *R. N. C. Hamilton*, Resident.

A LITERAL Translation of a Letter from Maharaja *Tukkoojee Holkar Bahadoor*, of Indore, to the Address of the Right honourable *W. Bird*, Governor-general of India; dated 5 July 1844.

After compliments,

THE melancholy events of the fading away the not yet fully blown flower of the fortune of the late Maharaja Khandeh Rao Holkar, on the morning of the 27th Mohurum 1260 (corresponding with 17th February 1844), by a stormy blast of the will of the Almighty, have already reached your ear by the correspondence of the late Resident, and you have thus learnt of the sorrow and uneasiness which consequently befel the well wishers of this powerful state.

2. He only who can dive into the secrets of hearts, knows what a degree of melancholy and dejection this heart-rending catastrophe of the death of that blossoming tree of the garden of greatness and power, entailed on the minds of all of every rank and age, and how much sorrow and mourning became the lot of those related to this great family. But there was no remedy except in patience; and submitting therefore to the imperative will of Providence we have had recourse to it, and feasted the soul of that traveller in the wide expanse of eternity, with prayers and charity in its behalf.

3. The

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3. The funeral ceremonies having subsequently subsided, the star of prosperity and propitiousness again began to arise from the horizon of success and good fortune, owing to the unbounded kindness and through the favouring consideration of the British Government. By the hand of Mr. R. N. C. Hamilton, the Resident, and the assistance of other respectable British officers, I was installed with all satisfaction and security on the musnud of this principality, at the most propitious hour chosen by the learned in the stars, when the sun was shining near to the meridian. By the acquisition of a killut from the British Government, I was assured and made content in watching over and taking care of the people, the precious charge entrusted to rulers. I will occupy myself, having offered up my hearty thanks to God for the great beneficence shown to me. I will exert all my energies to promote the welfare of the subjects of this state.

4. Considering the stability of the relations of friendship hitherto subsisting between the two Governments, I have thought it a duty on me to inform you fully on a subject calculated to, I hope, afford you satisfaction and pleasure.

5. Always being anxious to hear tidings of your good health and welfare, I hope you will now and then occasion to me satisfaction by writing about the same.

(signed) *R. N. C. Hamilton.*

From the Right honourable Lieutenant-general Sir H. Hardinge, Bart., G. C. B., to his Highness the Maharaja Tookajee Holkar; dated Fort William, 9 November 1844.

After compliments,

YOUR Highness's letter dated 5 July last has been duly received; in that letter allusion is made to the death of his late Highness Khundeh Rao, which had been reported to me by the Resident at Indore, and it is stated that the ceremonies customary on the occasion had been duly performed. Your Highness further remarks, that at the conclusion of the period of mourning you had been, by the great kindness of the British Government, installed as successor to the vacant guddee, and your Highness proceeds to state, that it will be your aim and object so to conduct the duties of the office to which you have been called, as to promote the welfare and happiness of the people of the Holkar state.

The intelligence of the early death of the late Maharaja was a cause of much grief to me; by that event the guddee of the Holkar state became vacant, there being no one of the Holkar family remaining entitled to succeed to the principality, or to adopt an heir to the guddee. It became therefore necessary for the Governor-general to make an arrangement for the administration of the government of the Holkar principality.

Having an earnest desire to promote the interests of the chiefs and people of the state, and to preserve the honour and prosperity of the principality, the British Government determined on this occasion to make such an arrangement as would conduce to the accomplishment of these ends, and would at the same time, it was believed, be agreeable to the feeling of the remaining members of the family of the late Hurree Rao Holkar, and of the chiefs and nobles of the principality.

Actuated by these motives, I was induced to direct the British Resident at Indore to nominate your Highness to the occupation of the vacant guddee.

I have every confidence that your Highness will, to the utmost of your endeavour, administer to the duties of the government in which you have been thus installed, in a manner befitting your high station, and with a becoming impression of the importance of the interests which will, on your coming of age, be entrusted to your care.

It is the intention of the British Government, in thus bestowing on your Highness the principality of the Holkar state, that the chiefship should descend to the heirs male of your Highness's body lawfully begotten, in due succession, from generation to generation.

Until the period of your Highness's coming of age the affairs of the government will be administered in your behalf, as at present, by a competent regency, acting under the general superintendence, and in all matters of importance the instructions of the British Resident, who will make arrangements for the edu-

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cation of your Highness during your minority, in a manner suitable to your Highness's future high destinies.

All existing engagements with other chiefs and states made by the chiefs of Holkar, and in force at the time of the death of the late Maharaja, will continue binding on your Highness and on your Highness's government.

Fort William,
9 November 1844.

(signed) *H. Hardinge.*

(No. 2,852.)

From *F. Currie*, Esq. Secretary to the Government of India, to *R. N. C. Hamilton*, Esq., Resident at Indore; dated Fort William, 9 November 1844.

Sir,

I AM directed to transmit to you for delivery the enclosed khurreetahs from the Right honourable the Governor-general to the address of Maharaja Tookajee Holkar and her Highness Krishna Baee, being replies to the khurreetahs from their Highnesses, received with your letter of the 8th July last, No. 94.

2. A translation, with copies of the Governor-general's letter, accompanies, for your information.

3. It is expected that on the delivery of these letters the Maharaja will pursue the course described in paragraph 12 of your letter of 30 September, No. 137.

I have, &c.

(signed) *F. Currie*,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Fort William,
9 November 1844.

(No. 163, B. of 1844.)

From *R. N. C. Hamilton*, Esq., Resident at Indore, to *F. Currie*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India; dated Camp, Sehore, 21 November 1844.

Sir,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your despatch No. 2,852, dated 9th of this month, transmitting for delivery two khurreetahs, to the address of Maharaja Tookajee Holkar and of her Highness Krishna Baee.

2. Adverting to the desire of the Governor-general in Council that the Maharaja should occupy the guddee of the Holkar state, under a sunnud direct from the British Government, and to the delay which must occur in the delivery by me of the two khurreetas now acknowledged, which cannot take place before my return to Indore, during which interval sufficient time will elapse for me to receive a reply to this letter, I deem it my duty to state the following circumstances, and propose awaiting further instructions before I present the khurreetas.

3. Had a proposal, that the successor to the vacant guddee should owe his position solely to a sunnud from the British Government, been made whilst the question of succession was unsettled, and conflicting parties ripe for action, I am confident the troops would have resisted, and the chiefs and sirdars have become distrustful and passive.

4. The impression abroad was, that the state was to escheat, the chief members being pensioned off; the announcement of a successor as the creature of the British Government, would not in such a state of the public mind have allayed the irritation. Our motives and intentions would have been doubted, and confidence in the integrity of our purpose once shaken, recourse to an armed force would have become necessary to carry out our views.

5. The unsettled state of the adjoining territory of Scindia, the wild character of the Bheels, the hordes of persons thrown on the world by the recent changes at Gwalior, all afforded elements for commotion, which delay and procrastination on our part would have fermented.

6. Matters have now become wholly altered, the British name, I will venture to say, never stood higher in Malwa than at the present time; tranquillity reigns throughout the Holkar state; the boy placed upon the guddee is popular, whilst he is considered as the selection of the paramount state; and parties who dis-

tracted

tracted the conduct of affairs, and kept up a constant irritation, have ceased to exist. If therefore, the Governor-general in Council should desire to transmit a sunnud for presentation to the Maharaja, it would be received with honour and thankfulness, if enclosed in a khurreeta from the Governor-general couched in terms similar to that now with me.

7. Care must be taken in wording the document, that the Holkar state is not lowered in the importance and rank which attach to all under treaty with the British Government; the term "sunnud" conveys neither rank nor importance in Malwa, whilst there is great honour, of which the chiefs and sirdars are very tenacious and sensitive, in being connected by treaty with the paramount power.

I have, &c.

Camp, Schore,
21 November 1844.

(signed) *R. N. C. Hamilton,*
Resident.

(No. 4,005, of 1844.)

From *F. Currie*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to *R. N. C. Hamilton*, Esq., Resident at Indore; dated Fort William, 7 December 1844.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st ultimo, No. 163 B., stating your reasons for having withheld the delivery of the Governor-general's khurreeta to the Maharaja, forwarded to you with my letter of the 9th idem, No. 2,852.

2. In reply, I am desired to state, that the Governor-general's khurreeta is to be considered as the rajah's sunnud, and the muzzur to be presented on its delivery.

I have, &c.

Fort William,
7 December 1844.

(signed) *F. Currie,*
Secretary to the Government of India.

Bhopaul Succession, 1819, 1820.

Bhopaul Succession,
1819, 1820.

EXTRACT Political Letter from Bengal; dated 17 March 1820.

11. It will be pleasing to your Honourable Court to observe the spirit of grateful attachment and unlimited confidence in our friendship evinced throughout his connexion with us, by Nusseer Mohummud Khan, the late Nabob of Bhopaul; and while every occasion was gladly taken by us to add to his convenience, respectability and personal dignity, to promote the interests of his principality, and to cherish his feelings of regard towards the British Government, no effort was, on his part, spared to exhibit, by his services in our cause, his cordial reciprocation of sentiments, and his zealous devotion to our interests. We have not yet officially communicated his decease to your Honourable Court; but while we take this opportunity of informing you of its occurrence on the 11th November last, we reserve for a future despatch our report of the proceedings and arrangements which followed that event.

EXTRACT Political Letter from Bengal; dated 8 July 1820.

11. IN our despatch of the 17th March last, we had the honour to report the death of Nusseer Mahommed Khan, the Nabob of Bhopaul; this event was occasioned by the accidental discharge of a pistol, either from the hand of the Nabob himself, or from that of a boy who was in the room with him. The high character always borne by the late Nabob, his cordial disposition towards the British management, and the invariable attachment manifested by him to its interests, are sufficient reasons for our considering his death to have been a very

Pol. Cons. 1819,
7 Dec. Nos. 22, 23.
Pol. Cons. 1820,
1 Jan. Nos. 60, 61,
62, 70, 71, 72.
8 Jan. No. 107.

Bhopaul Succession,
1819, 1820.

great public loss, and most sincerely to be lamented. In these sentiments we are assured that your Honourable Court will concur with us.

12. We consider it to be expedient that the succession should continue in the direct line of Vizir Mohammud, and as the late Nabob left no male issue, and the dissolute character and incapacity of his brother, Ameer Mohammud, who had besides previously relinquished his birthright in public, and of the deposed Nabob, Ghous Mohammud, rendered them unfit to be entrusted with the government, we sanctioned an arrangement which had been adopted under the authority of Sir John Malcolm, for elevating to the chiefship Moneer Mohummud Khan, the eldest son of Ameer Mohummud, a boy of 12 years of age, who was adopted by the widow of the late Nabob, and affianced to his daughter. Immediately after the Nabob's death, his widow had, with the consent of the chief officers of the state, assumed the temporary administration of affairs. The elevation of the Nabob Moneer Mohummud met with the entire assent of the Begum and the principal chiefs, and the opposition at first made to it by Ameer Mohummud was soon withdrawn. The chief advantage of the arrangement consisted in the continuance of the administration in the hands of the late Nabob's most confidential and experienced advisers. We take the liberty of referring your Honourable Court for a more detailed statement of the occurrences, and a more particular explanation of the procedure which we sanctioned, to Major Henley's despatch, dated the 26th November 1819, already cited in the margin.

13. We were afterwards informed by Major Henley, that the Begum, widow of the Nabob, who was left pregnant at the time of her husband's decease, but was subsequently declared to have miscarried in consequence of the Nabob's death, asserted herself to be two months advanced in her pregnancy; but whatever the results of this asserted pregnancy might be, we were of opinion that the adoption and succession of Moneer Mohummud should not be set aside.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations; 7 December 1819.

(No. 22.)

LETTER from Major *Henley* to Secretary to Government; dated Camp, Bhamungong, 15 November 1819.

It is with the deepest grief I report to you that I have this instant been informed of the death of the Nawaub of Bhopal, which took place at Islamnuggur on the 11th instant.

2. The report which I have received from the minister, Shazad. Musseeah, mentions that it was by a pistol shot, and another letter states it to have happened by accident. My presence has been entreated at Bhopal, which I expect to reach to-morrow afternoon.

3. I shall immediately report any particulars of information that may appear of importance.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. Henley*,
On a Mission at Bhopal.

Ordered, That Major Henley be informed, that the Governor-general in Council has received, with deep affliction, the intelligence of the death of the Nawaub of Bhopal, conveyed in the foregoing despatch.

(No. 23.)

LETTER from Major *Henley* to Secretary to Government; dated Camp, Bhopal, 17 November 1819.

1. I HAVE the honour to acquaint you of my arrival here.

2. The government is at present nominally in the hands of the late Nawaub's widow, in which it appears likely to rest until time shall have determined as to the expectation of posthumous issue.

3. I have

Pol. 1820.
Cons. 5 Feb.
No. 21. 21 A.

3. I have had communication with the elder branches of the late Nawaub's family, who were employed by him in negotiating the treaty with the British Government, and who at present possess the general direction of affairs, and have been assured that the final determination of a successor would be submitted to the decision of the Most noble the Governor-general in Council.

4. I shall have the honour, at an early opportunity, to communicate further details as to the circumstances of the Nawaub's death, as well as all particulars of my proceedings in regard to any references that may be made to me on the subject of the succession, which I shall keep entirely open for the orders of Government.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. Henley,*
On a Mission at Bhopal.

(No. 72.)

EXTRACT Letter from Major *Henley*, on a Mission at Bhopal, to Secretary to Government; dated Camp, Bhopal, 26 November 1819.

ON the 18th I paid the customary visit of condolence to the brother and family of the late Nawaub, and on the 21st, the first period of mourning being expired, was visited by all his principal relations, with exception of his brother, Ameer Mahomed. On this occasion it was notified to me, that the Begum having miscarried, owing to excessive grief and agitation, there were no longer hopes of male issue to the Nawaub.

The communication of this event led to an inquiry, on my part, as to the measures they had in contemplation for maintaining the supremacy of the family of Wazeer Mahomed, with whom the connexion of the British Government with their state had originated, and how far the relative rights of lineal succession were likely to be preserved to the members of that branch.

In the discussion upon these subjects which ensued, I found the restoration of Ghoas Mahomed and the elevation of Ameer Mahomed * were considered equally incompatible with the welfare of the state, from the incapacity and dissolute habits of those persons, and that the adoption of either measure would preclude any of those now entrusted with the government from continuing to serve it, as they had naturally become, in the course of events, obnoxious to both chiefs, and the result they appeared to anticipate from the succession of either, was the progressive ruin of the country, and a consequent necessity for the interference of the British authorities at no very distant period.

The next objects of attention were the three sons of Ameer Mahomed, the eldest † of whom is of legitimate birth, and has attained the age of twelve (12) years, but had been already affianced to the daughter of a Puthan chief. The two younger are illegitimate, and though not, by Mahomedan usage, thereby disqualified for the succession, are ineligible for marriage with the Nawab's daughter. The wife of Ameer Mahomed being, however, advanced in her pregnancy, I found that, should she be delivered of a boy on this occasion, or hereafter, within a convenient period, it was proposed to adopt him, and betroth him to the young princess, but that otherwise it was in contemplation to betroth to her an adopted child of three years of age, son of Jumal Mahomed Khan, first cousin of the Nawab Wazeer Mahomed, by which measure, in event of the death of the princess, or her having no issue, the succession must pass from the present family.

At this stage I deemed it proper to draw the attention of these chiefs, first, to the great and various evils of a minority so protracted as that they were proposing, which might probably exceed the lives of all those now in consultation on the subject; secondly, I appealed to their feelings of gratitude and justice how far it was right to risk the exclusion of the posterity of Wazur Mahomed, to whom their state owed its present existence, and who, having twice saved it by his personal energy, had acquired a right of inheritance for his descendants, which I saw no reason adduced of sufficient importance to supersede.

I moreover

* His relinquishment of his birthright, which was publicly given on the accession of the late Nawaub, in presence of Kurreem Mahomed Khan, Jumal Mahomed Khan, Shazad Mussnah and others, is considered as conclusive with the Government on this occasion.

† Mooneer Mahomed Khan.

Bhopaul Succession.
1819, 1820.

I moreover observed, that in the position the British Government now occupied, it must often inevitably assume the office of umpire in disputed or doubtful successions; under which view I conceive it would not be disposed, on general principles of expediency and equity, to acknowledge any deviation from the established rule of lineal succession, owing to the inconvenient precedent which might thus be created; that therefore, as I apprehended they did not contemplate placing any one at the head of their state whose claim the British Government would find a difficulty in recognizing, I would prepare a memorandum to the purport of the preceding remarks, which I could wish to offer to the mature consideration of themselves and their advisers, previous to their adopting any conclusive arrangement.

On the 22d I received a letter from Ameer Mahomed, a translation of which accompanies, No. 4, and on the 24th, Shazard Musseeah came to acquaint me, that, after debating on the subject noticed in the paper I had transmitted, the Begum had assented to the immediate adoption of Moonneer Mahomed, eldest son of Ameer Mahomed, and that they had also obtained an acquittance from the Puthan chief, to whose daughter that youth had been affianced, which left no obstacle to the alliance between him and the late Nawab's daughter; but that Ameer Mahomed, after having given his consent, at the persuasion of some of his self-interested companions, had returned to the assembly, and grossly abused Kurreem Mahomed and some others, which had nearly produced an affray. Shazad Musseeah added, that although they had been thus disappointed in bringing me this arrangement complete, they thought, if Ameer Mahomed was made acquainted with my sentiments on the subject, he would not hesitate in according his consent.

Under this state of affairs, I considered it a proper opportunity to answer Mahomed's letter, which I had until then delayed doing. A translation of my reply accompanies, No. 5.

On the afternoon of the 25th I had the satisfaction of learning my letter had produced the expected effect, and that the transaction had been completed, and the requisite documents prepared and exchanged. It was also announced, that, in consideration of the situation and circumstances of Ameer Mahomed, it had been determined to make an important addition to the jagheer he already enjoyed.

I have the honour to transmit by this post to the Persian Secretary, Mr. Swinton, a letter from the Begum to the Most noble the Governor-general, submitting this arrangement, and her appointment of Kurreem Mahomed Khan to the dewany for approval, and supplicating the protection and future friendship of the British Government.

Though not nearly related to the late Nawaub, Kurreem Mahomed Khan was always treated by him with filial attention and regard. He is about fifty (50) years of age, and has been, from the time of Wuzeer Mahomed, the second person in power and influence in the state. His disposition is humane and conciliating, and his conduct dignified and correct; it may therefore be hoped that, under the present arrangement, no material difference will be experienced in the conduct of affairs, as all persons in office throughout the country, from the highest to the very lowest, have remained without the slightest change in their situation.

I have forwarded a copy of this despatch, together with a khureeta from the Begum, to Brigadier-general Sir John Malcolm; and as it is very desirable, for the removal of doubt and apprehension, as well as to put a stop to intrigue, and to ensure the uninterrupted progress of the Government, that the young Nawaub should ascend the musnud without delay, I trust the Brigadier-general may be pleased to anticipate the sanction of his Lordship in Council to the proceedings which have taken place here, in which event the proclamation of the Nawaub, with the usual ceremonies, will immediately take place.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations; 1 January 1820.

Bhopaul Succession,
1819, 1820.

(No. 60.)

LETTER from Brigadier-general *Malcolm* to Secretary to Government; dated
Camp, Mhow, 30 November 1819.

I HAVE the honour to enclose copy of a letter from Major Henley, with my reply. I trust the Most noble the Governor-general in Council will approve my having taken upon myself the responsibility of authorizing the placing Mooneer Mahomed Khan upon the musnud. The reasons for this measure are so fully explained by Major Henley, that I can say no more than that I subscribe to all he has stated, and am quite confident what he has done will be approved by Government. Under this conviction, I could not wish to hazard those intrigues which any delay in a decision of this point was calculated to engender. Malwa is at present tranquil, and there is every reason to conclude it will remain so. But few more unfortunate events could have occurred than the loss of the late Nawaub of Bhopal; and the subsequent death of the Maharao of Kotah has produced no slight sensation; for though that prince had long since ceased to exercise any authority, his name had influence; and less concord between Talum Sing and the son, than existed (or was supposed to exist) with the father, might be the cause of embarrassment.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Malcolm*,
Brigadier-general.

Camp, Mhow, 30 November 1819.

(No. 61.)

LETTER from Brigadier-general *Malcolm* to Major *W. Henley*; dated
Camp, Mhow, 30 November 1819.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant.

I return an answer to the letter from the late Nawaub's Begum, with copy, for your information. I deem the principles of expediency, policy and right to be so entirely in favour of the succession of Moneer Mahomed Khan, in preference to any other, that I can have no hesitation in anticipating the sanction of the Most noble the Governor-general to the measure, and beg you will urge the immediate issue of a proclamation placing him on the musnud. There are many reasons why no delay should take place upon a point of this nature; but I enclose you copy of my letter to Mr. Secretary Metcalfe upon the subject.

I am too confident of that approbation which your proceedings on this unfortunate emergency will receive from a higher quarter, to intrude my sentiments on the temper and judgment you have displayed.

You have, in the deference paid to you by all classes upon this occasion, reaped the benefits of that impression which your whole conduct since the period of your nomination to Bhopal has been calculated to make.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Malcolm*,
Brigadier-general.

Camp, Mhow, 30 November 1819.

(No. 62.)

LETTER from Major *Henley* to Brigadier-general *Malcolm*; dated
26 November 1819.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your letter of the 27th instant, and have communicated to the Begum and family of the late Nawaub the kind expressions of condolence and encouragement it conveyed.

2. In return, I have been requested by the Begum and the chiefs of the family, to offer the expression of their obligation for your recollection of them in the moment of their distress, and their confidence that the kind interest you have hitherto taken in the welfare of their state will not be diminished.

Bhopal Succession,
1819, 1820.

3. I avail myself of this opportunity to transmit a khureeta from the Begum to your address, together with a copy of my de-patch of this date to Mr. Secretary Metcalfe, and also to communicate the anxious hope of this Government, that under your auspices the arrangement which has been concluded for the succession of the young Nawaub, Mooneer Mahomed Khan, may have effect at the earliest possible period.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. Henley,*
On a Mission at Bhopal.

Ordered, That Sir John Malcolm be informed, that the Governor-general in Council entirely approves of his sanctioning the proposed succession to the government of Bhopal, vacated by the lamented death of the late Nawaub.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations ; 8 January 1820.

(No. 107.)

LETTER from Major *Henley* to Secretary to Government ; dated Camp at Bhopal, 6 December 1819.

1. IN reference to Brigadier-general Sir John Malcolm's despatch to your address, under date the 30th November, I have the honour to acquaint you, that the morning of this day having been fixed for the installation of the young Nawaub Mooneer Mahomed Khan, I was conducted to the place appointed for the ceremony by two of his relations, who had been deputed to my camp for the purpose of attending me. On my arrival the young prince repaired to the Begum's apartment, whence, after being dressed in the customary manner, he returned and took his seat on the musnud, the surpaitoh,* aigrette (kulgee), necklace, sword and shield were at the same time sent me by the Begum, with a request that I would invest the Nawaub, and also confer on her part the usual honorary khillaut of the dewanny on Kurrum Mahomed Khan, which having done, and offered the appropriate congratulations, a salute was fired, and the ceremony concluded, after the Nawaub had, according to custom, authenticated his signature in the presence of the assembly, by affixing it to grants confirming their former jagheirs to his two nearest relations.

2. While the investiture was taking place, Jumal Mahomed Khan, the nearest relative of the Nawaub present, observed to me, that the Puthans of Bhopal were a small band, less than 2,000 in number, who had no possession but their honour, which they had maintained untarnished and unimpaired during the arduous struggles of an eventful century, in the reiterated convulsions of which all the states around them had successively sunk ; that they now reposed with confidence under the shade of the protection of the Company's Government, and had nothing to offer in return for the benefits they had received, and the favour they still hoped would be continued to them, but their swords and their lives, which would ever be zealously devoted to the service of the British Government.

3. In reply, I observed in the consideration which had already been manifested by the Most noble the Governor-general for the interests of their state, must be viewed by all as a convincing proof of the estimation in which their character had been held by his Lordship, and that I felt confident on the same grounds they might still hope for a continuance of the favour and protection of Government.

4. On my departure the customary presents were offered, which (knowing that my refusal on such an occasion would have created a feeling of disappointment and chagrin) I accepted, and have brought to the credit of Government. A thousand rupees were also presented to the escort and establishment of the mission.

5. The young Nawaub has entered his 13th year. He is intelligent in appearance, and has already made some proficiency in Persian. His demeanour on this occasion was firm, decorous and even graceful. All the persons selected for his attendants are of the most respectable character ; and from their correct discharge
of

* A small plume of the feathers of a species of heron, richly set in jewels

of their appointed duties, I trust there are good grounds for encouraging a hope that his character will be permanently influenced by those principles on which it is the general interest of all that it should be formed.

Bhopal Succession,
1819, 1820.

6. I have had the honour to forward to the Persian Secretary to the Government a letter from the Nawaub to the Most noble the Governor-general, announcing his accession; and I avail myself of this opportunity to mention, that, having been requested by Sir John Malcolm, in completion of the settlements of the Goond chiefs on the Nerbudda, to investigate the claims they adduced to the landed possessions they now hold, I propose to repair to Nimawur immediately, having postponed receiving the visit of the Nawaub until I may have ascertained the sentiments of the Most noble the Governor-general in Council on the subject of his succession.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. Henley,*
On a Mission at Bhopal.

Camp at Bhopal. 6 December 1819.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations; 5 February 1820.

(No. 21.)

LETTER from Major *Henley* to Secretary to Government; dated Camp at Golana, 4 January 1820.

1. I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit an original letter, which I received a few days ago from Koashumgt Rao, the officer of the Bhopal Government, with whom I usually communicate.

2. The statement of the miscarriage of the Begum was not only spontaneously given to me by Koashumgt Rao and Shahzed Messeeah, as noticed in the letter now enclosed, but was confirmed by Kurreem Mahomed Khan, and all the principal chiefs. Her pregnancy is now asserted to be two months advanced, upwards of a month and a half having elapsed since the death of the Nawaub.

3. The circumstances of this case, though within possibility, can scarcely be viewed without suspicion. The father of the Begum is the deposed Nawaub Ghous Mahomed, to whom the arrangement recently concluded for the succession is not likely to be acceptable, and had she the slightest expectation of giving birth to a child herself, she would not at this period have consented to the adoption of Mooncer Mahomed.

4. On receiving the letter of Koashumgt Rao, I requested him to attend me, that I might be enabled to make more particular inquiries. From him I learned that on the first rumour reaching Kurreem Mahomed Khan, he caused a particular investigation to be made, the result of which tended to confirm the Begum's statement; Koashumgt Rao then proceeded to observe, that the succession had been now determined, and all the requisite ceremonies concluded, that the young Nawaub was in all respects unobjectionable; that the act of adoption was complete, and could not be set aside, but that whatever might be the result of the present appearances, the sole wish of all connected with the Government was to abide by the decision of the Most noble the Governor-general, which every one felt would be that best adapted to promote the welfare of the state.

5. In reply, I avoided giving my opinion as to any measures that might hereafter become necessary, merely observing that the claims of primogeniture in the course of succession to the Nawaub Wuzer Mahomed, were already (after his father), in favour of Mooner Mahomed, that his adoption by the Begum, and the dissolution of the marriage contract which had been concluded for him, in order to his being betrothed to the daughter of the late Nawaub, seemed to strengthen his natural claims, and that any vacillation in their proceedings which might have a tendency to detract from the character and dignity of their Government, was much to be deprecated.

Bhopaul Succession,
1819, 1820.

6. I have much satisfaction in observing on this occasion, that the administration of the government continues to be conducted in every respect with promptitude, equity and regularity, and that every attention has been paid by all ranks to the young Nabob.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. Henley*,
On a Mission at Bhopal.

Ordered, That the following Letter be addressed to Major Henley.

(No. 21 A.)

LETTER from Secretary to Government to Major *Henley*; dated Fort William,
5 February 1820.

1. I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 5.
2. Whatever may be the result of the asserted pregnancy of the Begum, the adoption and succession which have taken place cannot now be set aside.
3. The Governor-general in Council directs me to communicate to you this resolution.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. T. Metcalfe*,
Secretary to Government.

Fort William, 5 February 1820.

Dhar Succession, 1834.

Dhar Succession,
1834.

EXTRACT Political Letter from Fort William; dated 6 April 1835.

1834,
Cons. 15 May,
Nos. 5 to 8.

237. THE despatches recorded as per margin relate to the subject of the adoption and succession of Jeswunt Row Powar to the gudhi of the Dhar principality.

Cons. 15 May,
No. 9.

238. It was intimated to the Resident in reply, that as Jeswunt Row Powar had been adopted by Unpunia Bai Sahiba, and placed on the Dhar gudhi with the apparent acquiescence of all the parties concerned, the British Government consented to recognize him as the future ruler of that principality; but it is added, that the Resident had acted prematurely in deputing Captain Pettingall to be present at the installation of the young chief, before that arrangement had received the sanction of our Government, because, in the eyes of the country, the presence of a British officer on such an occasion must have been regarded as a mark of our acquiescence, and should Government have found it necessary ultimately to withhold its sanction, its character for consistency might have suffered in consequence.

239. With regard to the request of the Dhar state for the presentation of a khillat to the young Raja, Mr. Bax was informed, that there was no objection to a khillat of investiture being conferred on the part of the Supreme Government, the proper return for which would be a nuzzur of equal value; but to prevent any misapprehension, the Resident was requested to ascertain and report the wishes and expectations of the Dhar authorities as to the ceremonials to be observed on the occasion.

140. In acknowledging the receipt of the above instructions, the Resident having recommended the suspension of the presentation of a khillat to the young Raja of Dhar so long as any prospect existed of a competition for the gudhi of that principality, Mr. Bax was apprised that the measure proposed by him had received the approbation of Government.

EXTRACT Fort William Political Consultations of 15 May 1834.

Dhar Succession,
1834.

(No. 41.)

From the Acting Resident at Indore to *W. H. Macnaghten*, Esq., Secretary to the Governor-general, Fort St. George; dated 24 March 1834.

No. 5.

Sir,

I HAVE herewith the honour to transmit, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, copy and translation of a letter to my address from her Highness Myna Bae, the mother of the late Raja of Dhar, on the subject of a successor to that principality.

Copy of a letter from the mother of the late Raja of Dhar, on the subject of a successor to that principality, transmitted.

2. The boy whom it is proposed to adopt is stated to be between 11 and 12 years of age, and a near relation of the family; I am not aware that the selection which has been made is open to any objection, and, as far as I can learn, it appears to have met with the concurrence of all who had any claim to be consulted on the occasion.

Not aware of any objection to the boy proposed to be adopted, as the selection has the concurrence of all parties.

3. I beg to solicit his Lordship's instructions on the subject of the requests which have been preferred in the Bae's letter relative to the presentation of a khillaut, and being present at the ceremony of the boy's installation.

His Lordship's instructions on the subject of the Bae's request relative to the presentation of a khillaut, and the Resident's being present at the installation solicited.

4. A duplicate of the despatch to be transmitted for the information of the Vice-President in Council.

A duplicate of the despatch to be transmitted for the information of the Vice-President in Council.

I have &c.

(signed)

T. Robinson,

Acting Resident.

Indore, 24 March 1834.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from *Myna Bae*, Mother of the late Raja of Dhar, to Captain *Robinson*.

No. 6.

After the usual introduction,

The son of Jeswunt Ram Pomar, of Multan, as near relation of our family, has been selected for the purpose of being adopted by Unpoorna Bae, and made ruler of the Dhar principality, and when the ceremony takes place, we will decide on the name which he is to bear; our intentions in this respect were formerly communicated to you, and you had the kindness to grant a passport for the deputation, which has accordingly gone to bring the boy from Multan.

On the arrival of the boy, a propitious period will be fixed for the adoption; but it is necessary that you should honour the ceremony with your presence, and, in accordance with the usage established by Sir John Malcolm, that you should bestow a khillaut on the part of the Honourable Company. The Honourable Company being masters of the country, and occupying the situation of kings, it is requisite that a khillaut of investiture should be conferred by them at the time of accession; I therefore request the favour of your making an application to the Supreme Government for the purpose. It rests with you to write in such terms as you may deem proper, and I have only to report that your presence at Dhar and a khillaut are most necessary.

(Translated.)

(signed)

*P. Johnstone,*2^d Ass^t to the Resident.

(A true copy.)

(signed)

*P. Johnstone,*2^d Ass^t to the Resident.

Dhar Succession,
1834.

No. 7.

Reporting the installation of the young Raja on the guddee of the Dhar state, under the name of Jeswunt Rao Powar, and soliciting the instructions of the Governor-general for the presentation of a khillaut to him.

A duplicate of the despatch to be transmitted for the information of the Vice-President in Council.

From the Resident at Indore to *W. H. Macnaghten*, Esq., Secretary to the Governor-general, Neilgherry Hills; dated 22 April 1834.

Sir,

IN reference to the Acting Resident's letter to your address, dated the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to report, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, that the young boy, Mulhar Rao, was placed on the Dhar guddee on the 21st instant, with the usual ceremonies, under the name of Jeswunt Rao Powar, on which occasion Captain Pettingall attended in pursuance of the request conveyed to him in my letter of the 15th instant, a copy of which is enclosed, and I shall wait his Lordship's instructions on the request already preferred for the presentation of a khillaut to the young Raja.

2. A duplicate of this despatch will be transmitted, for the information of the Vice-President in Council.

I have &c.

(signed) *John Bax*,
Resident.

No. 8.

From the Resident at Indore to Captain *Pettingall*, in charge of the Political duties at Bhopawar; dated 15 April 1834.

Sir,

HAVING been requested by the authorities at Dhar to attend the ceremony of installing the boy lately adopted by Unpoona Bae Sahiba on the guddee of that state, and being desirous that the compliment of attendance on such an occasion should be paid by an officer attached to this department, in consideration of our intimate connexion with the Powar family; I have to request you will be so good as to attend the ceremony in question, which will take place on the 21st instant.

2. Your proximity to Dhar will enable you to comply without inconvenience, I hope, with this desire; but I beg you will let it be distinctly understood that your presence on the occasion is to be considered purely complimentary to the Powar family, and not intended as any sanction, on the part of the British Government, to the ceremony on which your attendance is given.

I have &c.

(signed) *John Bax*,
Resident.

Indore, 15 April 1834.

(A true copy.)

(signed) *T. Robinson*,
1st Ast to the Resident.

Ordered, That the following letter be addressed to the Resident at Indore.

No. 9.

From the Deputy Secretary to Government to *John Bax*, Esq., Resident at Indore; dated 15 May 1834.

Sir,

THE letter of the late Acting Resident, dated the 24th of March last, on affairs of Dhar, has been referred by his Excellency the Right honourable the Governor-general for the consideration and orders of the honourable the Vice-President in Council; and a duplicate of your despatch, dated 22d ultimo, has also been received.

2. In reply, I am directed to inform you, that as Jeswunt Row Powar has been adopted by Unpurma Bae Sahiba, and placed on the Dhar gudhi, with the apparent acquiescence of all the parties concerned, the British Government consents to recognize him as the future ruler of that principality; but I am desired to add, that you acted prematurely in deputing Captain Pettingall to be present at his installation, before that arrangement had received the sanction of Government. Although it is stated by you in your letter to Captain Pettingall, that his presence on the occasion was to be considered purely complimentary to the Powar family, and not intended as any sanction on the part of the British Government to the ceremony in which his attendance was required, yet in the eyes of the country, the presence of a British officer on such an occasion must have been regarded as a mark of our acquiescence: and should Government have found

found it necessary ultimately to withhold its sanction, its character for consistency might have suffered in consequence.

Dhar Succession,
1834.

3. With regard to the request of the Dhar Government for the presentation of a khillat to their young Raja, his Honour in Council has no objection to a khillat of investiture being conferred on the part of the Supreme Government, the proper return for which would be a nuzur of equal value. But to prevent any misapprehension, it is requested that you will ascertain the wishes and expectations of the Dhar authorities as to the ceremonials to be observed, and report the result.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. E. Trevelyan,*

Fort William, 15 May 1834.

Deputy Secretary to Government.

(No. 22.)

From the Resident at Indore to *C. E. Trevelyan, Esq.,* Deputy Secretary to Government in the Political Department, Fort William; dated 3 June 1834.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th ultimo, respecting the adoption and installation of Jeswunt Row Powar, and directing me to ascertain, by desire of the Honourable the Vice-President in Council, the wishes and expectations of the Dhar authorities as to the ceremonials to be observed upon conferring a khillat on the young Raja on the part of the Supreme Government.

Acknowledging receipt of Deputy Secretary's letter of the 15th ult., respecting the adoption and installation of Jeswunt Rao Powar, of Dhar.

2. Previous, however, to taking any steps to ascertain the above points, I beg leave to refer the Honourable the Vice-President in Council to my letter of the 31st ultimo to Mr. Macnaghten, copy of which was forwarded to you, wherein I reported the removal of Bapoo Rughoonath from the office of Minister at Dhar; and as Unpoorna Baee, widow of the late Raja, has made no communication to me about his successor, I am disposed to think that a reference to herself at this moment, on the subject of the ceremonials in question, is inexpedient, and at all events a delay cannot be productive of any inconvenience.

Proposing, for reasons stated, to refrain for the present from consulting the wishes and expectations of the Dhar authorities, in regard to conferring a khillat on the young Raja.

3. The abrupt and capricious removal of an able and respected Minister, and the transfer of the internal management of a state to the uncontrolled hands of a young lady, the guardian of an adopted and infant Rajah, are events so highly favourable to disorder and * to competition for the guddee of Dhar, in the present posture of affairs in Malwa, that I would respectfully recommend the postponement of all measures connected with the presentation of a khillat to the young Raja.

Adverting to the unfavourable aspect of affairs at Dhar, in consequence of the removal of the late Minister.

• Orig.

4. The Honourable the Vice-President in Council having been pleased to say that I acted prematurely in deputing Captain Pettingall to be present at the installation of Dhar Raja, before that arrangement had received the sanction of Government, I beg permission to add a few words in explanation of the circumstance. The Acting Resident, on the 24th March, had reported the adoption to Government, and the installation had been fixed for the 21st April, which, being deemed an auspicious day, the ceremony could not be postponed. On the latter date no reply had been received concerning the adoption, but, judging from analogous cases, I had every reason to suppose that the adoption, having been stated by the Acting Resident to be free from objection, would be recognized, as it has now been.

Explaining the grounds on which Captain Pettingall was deputed to attend the ceremony of the installation.

5. The Dhar authority, under these circumstances, being importunate to have a similar compliment paid to their state by my attendance at the installation of the young Raja, which had recently been paid to the Holkar state by the Acting Resident at the installation of the son of Bapoo Holkar, I was led to think that I might follow the above precedent, without involving Government in any inconsistency; and finding, therefore, that the Acting Resident on the 11th January had reported his being present at the installation at Indore, "as a spectator or visitor, but with the distinct understanding that it was not to be considered as an attendance in any other character," and that the proceeding was entirely approved in your reply of the 6th February, I deputed Captain Pettingall to give his complimentary attendance at Dhar, expressly stating that his attend-

His attendance merely complimentary, and in no shape involving the consistency of the British Government, similar attendance was given in the case.

Dhar Succession,
1834.

Stating the motive for
entering into the fore-
going explanation.

ance was not to impart any sanction to the ceremony, or in other words that he was to be considered merely as a spectator or visitor; an individual character which, by the precedent I have quoted, appeared to be recognized as existing in an official person, independent of his official character.

6. I have ventured, with great respect, to explain the cause of the erroneous act imputed to me, without intending in any degree to impugn the judgment formed of it by the Right honourable the Vice-President in Council.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Bax*,
Resident.

Indore, 3 June 1834.

Ordered, That the following letter be addressed to the Resident at Indore, in reply to the foregoing despatch from him.

(No. 77.)

From the Deputy Secretary to Government to *John Bax*, Esq., Resident at Indore ;
dated 19 June 1834.

Sir,

In reply to your letter, dated the 3d instant, I am directed to inform you, that the honourable the Vice-President in Council approves of your recommendation to suspend the presentation of a khillaut to the young Raja of Dhar, so long as any prospect exists of a competition for the guddee of that principality.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. E. Trevelyan*,
Deputy Secretary to the Government.
Fort William, 19 June 1834.

(True copies.)

(signed) *C. E. Trevelyan*,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

Dutteeah Succession
1833-1840.

Dutteeah Succession, 1833-1840.

EXTRACT Political Letter from Bengal ; dated 22 August 1833.

1832 :
Cons. 3 Sept.
Nos. 104 & 105.

Para. 29 A. IN the despatch recorded as per margin, the agent in Bundelcund submitted a report on the right of the Boondela Rajas to adopt their illegitimate offspring, and an application from the Rajah of Dhutteeah for the confirmation of Government to the adoption of a boy. He also noticed the case of the Raja of Oorcha, and solicited the instructions of Government on the above point.

Cons. 3 Sept.
Nos. 106 & 107.

29 B. In forwarding the above despatch for the consideration of the Governor-general, we stated that we were not aware of any objection to the Raja of Dhutteeah's adoption of the boy whom he proposed to make his heir, as it appeared to be recognized by other chiefs of the same descent, including the heir presumptive of the Dutteeah raj, and that in the event of the birth of a legitimate son to the Raja, the adopted one might be set aside with a suitable provision.

Dutteeah Succession, 1839-1840.

Dutteeah Succession,
1839-1840.

EXTRACT Political Letter from Bengal ; dated 13 March (No. 3) 1834.

85. WITH reference to the letters from the Agent noticed in paragraphs 29 A. and 29 B. of our general letter, No. 5 of 1833, the Governor-general recognized and sanctioned the adoption by the Raja of Dutteeah of a child (name not mentioned), stated by the Raja to have been a foundling, being of opinion that, as the Raja of Dutteeah's adoption of a boy whom he proposed to make his heir, had been recognized by other chiefs of the same descent, including the heir presumptive of the Dutteeah raj, there was no objection to a similar recognition on the part of the British Government.

Cons. 26 March,
Nos. 49 & 52 ;
Cons. 9 May,
Nos. 54 & 60.

EXTRACT Narrative of Proceedings of the Right honourable the Governor-General, and of the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor of the North Western Provinces, in the Political Department, for January, February and March 1840 ; dated 13 April 1840.

34. THE Rao Raja of Dutteeah (named Paruchut Bahadoor) died on the 13th August 1839. This is an hereditary independent chiefship, and the Raja, having no family, had adopted as his heir, in September 1830, a foundling, whom he named Raja Beejye Bahadur, which adoption was recognized by the Government on the 9th May 1833. This boy, now about 13 years of age, has succeeded in right of adoption, though his succession was opposed by Dewan Muddum Sing, of Beronee, a collateral branch of the late chief's family ; but as we had already allowed the adoption to be good, as the country was very fairly governed on the part of the young Raja by the present Dewan, or minister, and as the succession seemed evidently agreeable to the people, the Governor-general felt himself called upon to recognize the Raja's title, which his Lordship did, in the course of his progress through Bundelkund.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations ; 3 September 1832.

(No. 104.)

From the Agent to the Governor-General in Bundelkund to Mr. Chief Secretary Swinton ; dated 14 July 1832.

Sir,

THE right of the Boondelah Rajas to adopt whom they please, and to be succeeded by their illegitimate offspring, is proved by the fact that the present Rajas of Punnah and Bejamur are either illegitimate themselves, as is the case with regard to the former, or the descendant of an illegitimate branch of the family of Chuttersah, as is the case with respect to the latter.

2. The above assertion is further established on reference to the family of the Raja of Dutteeah, who is in opposition to that of the Raja of Bejawur. The present report relates to this raj, to which, in the event of a demise of the Raja, there is no nearer claimant on the ground of legitimacy of birth than the aged Raja of Tehree and Oorcha, who is also without offspring born in wedlock.

3. The enclosure is an application from the Raja of Dutteeah to me to obtain confirmation of the adoption of a boy of tender age, and acknowledgment of the British Government of his adopted heir.

4. When this subject was first mentioned to me verbally by the Raja's vakeel, I remarked a disinclination to communicate the parentage of the boy. The mystery was at length cleared up, and the Raja acknowledged himself to be the child's father. The Raja of Tehree, who is the head of the family of Bur Sing Deo, has acquiesced in his relative's request to sanction by his presence the measure taken by the Raja of Dhutteeah, subject to the approbation of the British Government. The Rancee, who has frequently urged the Raja to marry a second

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1839-1840.

wife, and which he has invariably refused, in deference to his Ranee. has acknowledged the boy as her adopted son. She is a confirmed invalid, though still not aged, and the Raja has for several years ceased to expect a progeny from her.

5. The mother of the boy being a connexion of the Raja, so far as caste is concerned, there is no legal objection to the adoption ; otherwise the Raja of Oorcha would not, as he has done, have partaken of the same food with the Raja of Dutteeah.

6. The treaty entered into between the British Government and the Raja of Dutteeah, confirms the latter in his Eakah, as an independent chieftain, and his right to nominate a successor cannot, I imagine, be disputed. The terms upon which the Government may be pleased to acknowledge the person whom he may select to succeed him, it is not for me to point out. It is a question whether, in failure of legitimate offspring, of appointing a successor by adoption, or of the existence of any near relation, the raj would become lapsed to the paramount state, or be left in abeyance *ad infinitum* ; it is a question also whether that state might not reasonably exact the payment of a peshcush as the price of its acknowledgment of an adopted heir.

7. I avail myself of the present opportunity to point out another feature in the engagements entered into by the British Government with the chiefs of Bundelcund. The treaties with the chiefs of Bundelcund were made with individuals in possession, and their successors. Does that term necessarily include that person's relatives through his father ? His uncles and brothers, and their children might, strictly speaking, be considered in no respect parties to the engagement. This point was insisted on by the late Raja of Chickaree, who observed, that to him and his descendants the Government had confirmed the raj, and that when they failed, it was the property of Government.

8. I beg to be favoured with his Honour in Council's instructions as to the course I should pursue in the matter of the Raja of Dutteeah.

9. The submission of the Raja's application has been delayed for three reasons. The late Raja of Sumpthur requested me, in a similar manner, to obtain the sanction of Government to an adoption he wished to make, and though I adverted to his own and his wife's age, and the probability of his having offspring, he urged the request. Two months afterwards he begged me to defer my report on the subject, and in due course the present Raja was born. Secondly, the Raja of Dutteeah would in all probability marry again, if his present wife should die ; and if the child he wishes the Government to acknowledge as his heir and successor is his son, there is no obvious reason why he should not have other children. Her infirm state does not promise a long life. The delay would give any claimant an opportunity to submit his claim ; none has presented himself ; and the Raja being solicitous that my report should be submitted, I no longer defer it.

10. I have the honour to apprise Government, that it is probable an application of a nature somewhat similar will be preferred by the Raja of Oorcha on the death of his only son, Maharaja Dhurm Pal. The Raja has very recently married again, although at the advanced age of seventy years.

I have, &c.

(signed) *M. Ainslie,*
Agent, Governor-General.

Bundelcund Agency, Humeerpore,
14 July 1833.

TRANSLATION of a Letter, dated 25 September 1830, from the Raja of Dutteeah to Mr. *Ainslie*, Agent to the Governor-general in Bundelcund.

LANGUAGE cannot express the extent of the protection afforded, and interest taken in the welfare of their faithful adherent, by the British Government. May the Almighty increase its power which desires to perpetuate in the families of the present chieftains the territories and possessions each enjoys. You, my friend, will more especially in my case feel peculiar interest, and I have been particularly solicitous to avail myself of the propitious moment, as under no former Government, however powerful, was such a degree of consideration evinced. The power of Omnipotence is so great, that the desires of man are realised from an invisible source.

source. Such has been my case. Above four years since a gentleman was travelling from Gwalior through Noodoogoon (near Dutteeah), early in the morning; the voice of a newly-born infant reached his ears as he approached that village. He went to the spot, and observed an infant lying in a basket, apparently recently born; he alighted from his elephant, and compassionately taking up the child, proceeded to the gate of the fort, and summoning the commandant, delivered the infant to his charge, with instructions to be careful of it. As it had marks of superior birth visible in its features, the commandant forwarded the child to me, with a statement of the foregoing particulars. Considering the infant as the gift of him, and myself fortunate in the acquisition, I placed it in my bosom, carried it into the female apartments, and treated it as my son. I now propose to commence the rejoicings usual on such occasions (the birth of a son), and preparatory to them the ceremony of cutting the hair will be performed. I deem it proper to report the foregoing intentions to you, and on the receipt of your answer, the rejoicings will begin. I hope you will obtain the orders of Government to enable me to nominate the boy my heir and successor. Should a son be hereafter born in my family, no inconvenience will result.

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1839-1840.

(True translation.)

(signed) *M. Ainslie,*
Agent, Governor-General.

Note.—The account of the discovery of a child is a fiction.

(signed) *M. A., A.G.G.*

TRANSLATION of a Letter from the Agent in Bundelcund to the Raja of Dutteeah; dated 7 October 1830.

(AFTER recapitulating the contents of the Raja's letter of the 25th September.) Your intention with regard to the ceremony of cutting the child's hair is not in my power to control. I trust you will be blessed with offspring in your own family. Should you, however, determine to adopt any child, it appears advisable that you should select the son of one of your relations. In compliance with your request, a report shall be made to Government, and you will hereafter be informed of its sentiments.

(True translation.)

(signed) *M. Ainslie, A. G. G.*

TRANSLATION of a Letter from the Raja of Dutteeah, dated 28 October 1830, to the Agent in Bundelcund.

(AFTER the usual compliments and acceptance of the Agent's letter of the 7th October.) My friend, although your advice is esteemed by me above all things, yet as none of my relations have a son whom I wish, or who is fit to succeed me, and as this child is of high birth and intelligent, and has to this day been brought up as my son, and is to me as a son, therefore I addressed you in his behalf. Should a son be born in my family, he also will be obedient to the Government. I hope you will represent the matter in such a light to Government that my request may be complied with.

(True translation.)

(signed) *M. Ainslie, A. G. G.*

Dutteeah Succession, 1839-1840. TRANSLATION of a Letter from the Raja of Dutteeah, dated 24 February 1831, to the Governor-general in Bundelcund.

* Since dead.

THE ceremony of cutting the hair having been recently happily performed, according to the rites of my religion, and Maharaja Mehindee Bikramjut, Raja of Oorcha, with his brothers and relations having participated on the occasion, and Ramchund Rao, Soobahdar of Jhansi, also with other chieftains of the province, having assisted in person at the ceremony, only one desire of my heart, your presence, remained ungratified; this, also, I hope to obtain. My friend, in the month of Chat, the marriage of Raja Behadur,* son of the Raja of Oorcha, is to take place; I therefore propose to proceed to Tehree to be present on the occasion, and to leave Dutteea after the Hoolee. This is written for your information.

Ordered, That the following letters be addressed to the Agent in Bundelcund, and Secretary to the Governor-general, transmitting a copy of Mr. Ainslie's despatch to Mr. Macnaghten.

(No. 15.)

From *S. Fraser*, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General, Bundelcund, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Officiating Secretary to Government, North Western Provinces, Simla; dated 20 August 1839.

Sir,

Pro. 24 Feb. 1840,
No. 4.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, that I have this day received intimation of the death, on the 13th instant, of the Raja of Dutteeah.

2. It appears that the Raja had, for some time past, been suffering from a pain in his foot, and that he applied to his medical attendant to lance it; the latter, accordingly, made an incision the whole length of the side of his foot; but being unable to stop the effusion of blood, he applied heated ghee to it, from the effects of which a bad sore resulted, causing fever and exhaustion, from which he eventually died on the above date.

3. The first information I received of the Raja's being seriously ill, was from a letter presented by his Mokhtar yesterday: and, although in it he states that he does not expect to recover, the Mokhtar led me to understand that there were no grounds for apprehending immediately a fatal termination to his illness; it was with some surprise, therefore, that I this morning received the intelligence of his death.

4. The raj of Dutteea is an hereditary independent chiefship; and, as the Raja had no family, he adopted as his heir, in September 1830, a foundling, whom he named Raja Bejye Behadoor, and the adoption was recognized on the 9th May 1833 by Government; the boy is about 13 years of age, and at present in Dutteeah; Dewan Gunesh Doss, a Brahmin, the manager of the late Raja, and Konwur Bikramajeer, son of the sister of Rao Sutherjeet, the father of the late Raja, are the most influential persons about him, and if they adhere to his interests, it is probable that his authority will be respected; but the wife of the late Raja, the adoptive mother of the boy, died about two years ago, and the relations of the family generally being displeased with the adoption of a foundling, to the exclusion of their own families, it is not impossible that some disturbances may arise, especially as Dewan Gunesh Doss, the manager, has not rendered himself agreeable to these branches of the family. At present, however, all is quiet, and the Dewan, having possession of the late Raja's funds, will most probably be able to keep down for some time all opposition to the interests he supports, and if he acts judiciously and faithfully to his charge, he may prevent any rebellious outbreak. The late Raja, when questioned by me during my visit to Dutteea early in the year on the subject, expressed his wish that the Dewan should continue to manage affairs in the event of his death during the minority of his adopted son; and, in conformity with the general policy of the British Government, I shall decline to interfere in the arrangements in progress, excepting

to enjoin upon all parties, that in forbearance and conciliation they will best support the interests of all parties and the credit of the family.

Dutteeah Succession,
1839-1840.

5. I have written to the present Raja the usual letter of condolence on the late Raja's death.

I have, &c.

(signed) *S. Fraser,*
Agent to Gov^r Gen^l.

Bundelcund Agency Office, Banda,
20 August 1839.

(No. 16.)

From *S. Fraser*, Esq., Agent to the Governor-general in Bundelcund, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Officiating Secretary to Government, North Western Provinces, Simla; dated 3 September 1839.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th ultimo, relative to the claim of Dewan Muddum Singh, of Beronee, and calling for an early report on all circumstances relating to the Dutteeah adoption that have not already been submitted to Government, particularly regarding the feeling of the Raja's near relations, and the people in general, respecting it.

No. 5.

2. In reply, I beg to submit, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general, a copy of Mr. Ainslie's report of the 14th July 1832, and the orders of Government in reply on the subject of the adoption, and to refer to the enclosures, which accompanied the former, for the particulars above required. Mr. Ainslie, it will be perceived, states that the foundling was an illegitimate son of the Raja; but for this impression I can find no authentic source. The real facts are, I believe, given correctly by the Raja in his first letter to Mr. Ainslie.

3. From my letter of the 20th ultimo, his Lordship will have learnt that the sudden demise of the late Raja has placed the adopted son in possession of the Duttea raj at an unexpectedly early age; and, according to the principles lately communicated in the despatches from the Court of Directors, if he can control the people of the chiefship, and secure respect to his authority, the British Government are not called upon to interfere in the matter. I have already stated my own views on this subject, in my letter above noted; but should any occurrence of importance arise, I will not fail to represent it to Government for consideration and orders.

I have, &c.

(signed) *S. Fraser,*
Agent to Gov^r Gen^l.

Bundelcund Agency Office, Banda,
3 September 1839.

(No. 17.)

From *M. Ainslie*, Esq., Agent to Governor-general. Bundelcund, to *Geo. Swinton*, Esq., Secretary to Government, Fort William; dated 14 July 1832.

Sir,

THE right of the Boondela Rajas to adopt whom they please, and to be succeeded by their illegitimate offspring, is proved by the fact that the present Rajas of Tanna and Bijowur are either illegitimate themselves, as is the case with regard to the former, or the descendant of an illegitimate branch of the family of Chuttur Saul, as is the case with respect to the latter.

No. 6.

2. The above assertion is further established on reference to the family of the Raja of Dutteea, who is in a position similar to that of the Raja of Bijowur. The present report relates to this raj, to which, in the event of the demise of the Raja, there is no nearer claimant on the ground of legitimacy of birth than the aged Raja of Theree and Oorcha, who is also without offspring born in wedlock.

3. The enclosure is an application from the Raja of Dutteea to me to obtain the confirmation of the adoption of a boy of tender age, and the acknowledgment of the British Government of his adopted heir.

4. When the subject was first mentioned to me, verbally, by the Rajah's vakeel, I remarked a disinclination to communicate the parentage of the boy. The

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1839-1840.

mystery was at length cleared up, and the Raja acknowledged himself to be the child's father. The Raja of Tehree, who is the head of the family of Beer Sing Deo, has acquiesced in his relative's request, to sanction by his presence the measure taken by the Raja of Dutteeah, subject to the approbation of the British Government. The Ranee, who has frequently urged the Raja to marry a second wife, and which he has invariably refused, in deference to his Ranee, who has acknowledged the boy as her adopted son. She is a confirmed invalid, though still not aged, and the Raja has for several years ceased to expect any progeny by her.

5. The mother of the boy being a connexion of the Raja, so far as caste is concerned, there is no legal objection to the adoption; otherwise the Raja of Oorcha would not, as he has done, have partaken of the same food with the Raja of Dutteea.

6. The treaty entered into between the British Government and the Raja of Dutteeah, confirms the latter in his Eaqua, as an independent chieftain, and his right to nominate a successor cannot, I imagine, be disputed. The terms on which Government may be disposed to acknowledge the person whom he may select to succeed him, it is not for me to point out. It is a question whether, in failure of legitimate offspring, of appointing a successor by adoption, or of the existence of any new relations, the raj would become lapsed to the paramount state, or be left in abeyance *ad infinitum*; it is a question also whether that state might not reasonably exact the payment of a peshcush, as the price of its acknowledgment of an adopted heir.

7. I avail myself of another opportunity to point out another feature in the engagements entered into by the British Government with the chiefs of Bundelkund. The treaties were made with individuals in possession, and their heirs and successors. Does that term necessarily include that person's relatives through his father? His uncle and brothers and their children might, strictly speaking, be considered as in no respect parties to the engagement. This point was insisted on by the late Raja of Chickaree, who observed that to him and his descendants the Government had confirmed the raj, and that when they failed, it was the property of Government.

8. I beg to be favoured with his Honour in Council's instructions as to the course I should pursue in the matter of the Raja of Dutteea.

9. The submission of the Raja's application has been delayed for three reasons. The late Raja of Sumpthur requested me, in a similar manner, to obtain the sanction of Government to an adoption he wished to make, and though I adverted to his own and his wife's age, and the possibility of his having offspring, he urged the request. Two months afterwards he begged me to defer my report on the subject, and in due course the present Raja was born. Secondly, the Raja of Dutteeah would in all probability marry again, if his present Ranee should die; and if the child he wishes the Government to acknowledge as his heir and successor is his son, there is no very obvious reason why he should not have other children. Her infirm state does not promise a long life. Thirdly, the delay would give any claimant an opportunity to submit his claim; none has presented himself; and the Raja being solicitous that my report should be submitted, I no longer defer it.

10. I have the honour to apprise Government, that it is probable that an application of a nature somewhat similar will be preferred by the Raja of Oorcha on the death of his only son, Maharaja Dhurm Pal. The Raja has very recently married again, although at the advanced age of 70 years.

I have, &c.

(signed) *M. Ainslie*,
Agent to the Governor-general.

Bundelcund Agency, Humeerpore,
14 July 1832.

(No. 18.)

Dutteeah Succession
1839-1840.

TRANSLATION of a Letter, dated 25 September 1830, from the Raja of Dutteeah to Mr. *Ainslie*, Agent to the Governor-General in Bundelkund.

LANGUAGE cannot express the extent of the protection afforded and interest taken in the welfare of their faithful adherent by the British Government. May the Almighty increase its power, which desires to perpetuate in the families of the present chieftains the territorial possessions each enjoys. You, my friend, will, more especially in my case, feel peculiar interest; and I have been particularly desirous to avail myself of the propitious moment, as under no former Government, however powerful, was such a degree of consideration evinced. The power of Omnipotence is so great, that the desires of man are realized from an invisible source. Such has been my case. Above four years since, a gentleman was travelling from Gwalior through Nuddeagaon (near Dutteeah). Early in the morning the voice of a newly-born infant reached his ears as he approached that village. He went to the spot, and observed an infant lying in a basket, apparently recently born. He alighted from his elephant, and compassionately taking up the child, proceeded to the gate of the fort, and, summoning the commandant, delivered the infant to his charge, with instructions to be careful of it, as it had marks of superior birth visible in its features. The commandant forwarded the child to me, with a statement of the foregoing particulars. Considering the infant as the gift of Heaven, and myself fortunate in the acquisition, I placed it in my bosom, carried it into the female apartments, and treated it as my son. I now propose to commence the rejoicings usual on similar occasions (the birth of a son), and preparatory to them, the ceremony of cutting the hair will be performed. I deem it proper to report the foregoing intention to you, and on the receipt of your answer the rejoicings will begin. I hope you will obtain the orders of Government to enable me to nominate the boy my heir and successor. Should a son hereafter be born in my family, no inconvenience will result.

(True translation.)

(signed) *M. Ainslie*,
Agent to the Governor-general.

(No. 19.)

TRANSLATION of a Letter from the Agent in Bundelkund to the Raja of Dutteeah; dated 7 October 1830.

(AFTER recapitulating the contents of the Raja's letter of the 25th September.) Your intention with regard to the ceremony of cutting the child's hair is not in my power to control. I trust you will be blessed with offspring in your own family. Should you, however, determine to adopt any child, it appears advisable that you select the son of one of your near relations. In compliance with your request, a report shall be made to Government, and you will be hereafter informed of its sentiments.

(True translation.)

(signed) *M. Ainslie*,
Agent to the Governor-general.

(No. 19.)

TRANSLATION of a Letter from the Raja of Dutteeah, dated 28 October 1830, to the Agent in Bundelkund.

(AFTER the usual compliments and recapitulation of the agent's letter of the 7th October.) My friend, although your advice is esteemed by me above all things, yet, as none of my relations have a son whom I wish or who are fit to succeed me, and this child is of high birth and intelligent, and has to this day

Dutteeah Succession,
1839-1840.

been brought up as my son, and is to me as a son, therefore I addressed you in his behalf. Should a son be born in my family, he also will be obedient to the Government. I hope you will represent the matter in such a light to Government that my request may be complied with.

(True translation.)

(signed) *M. Ainslie*,
Agent to the Governor-general.

(No. 20.)

TRANSLATION of a Letter from the Raja of Dutteeah, dated 24 February 1831, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Bundelkund.

THE ceremony of cutting the hair having been recently happily performed, according to the rites of my religion, and Maharaja Mehmider Bichuimajeet, Raja of Oorcha, with his brothers and relations, having participated on the occasion, and Ram Chund Rao Soobahdar of Ihausi, also with other chieftains of the province, having assisted in person at the ceremony, only one desire of my heart, your presence also, remained ungratified. This, also, I hope to obtain. My friend, in the month of Cheit the marriage of Raja Behander, son of the Raja of Oorcha, is to take place. I propose, therefore, to proceed to Tehree, to be present on the occasion, and to leave Dutteeah after the Hoolie. This is written for your information.

(True translation.)

(signed) *M. Ainslie*,
Agent to the Governor-general.

(No. 21.)

EXTRACT of a Letter from the Secretary to the Government, dated 9 May 1833, to the Address of the Agent to the Governor-General in Bundelkund.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters, dated the 14th July and 8th August last, and to inform you, that the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council has been pleased to recognize and sanction the adoption by the Rajah of Dutteeah of a child (name not mentioned), stated by the Raja to have been a foundling, being of opinion that as the Raja of Dutteeah's adoption of the boy whom he proposes to make his heir has been recognized by other chiefs of the same descent, including the heir presumptive of the Dutteeah Raj, there is no objection to a similar recognition on the part of the British Government.

(True copy and extract.)

(signed) *S. Fraser*,
Agent to Governor-general.

(No. 29.)

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces in the Political Department, under date 13 January 1840.

From *S. Fraser*, Esq., Agent to Governor-General, Bundelkund, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, with the Right honourable the Governor-General; dated 2 January 1840.

Sir,

No. 4.

I HAVE the honour to forward two khureetas from the Raja of Dutteeah, one to the address of the Right honourable the Governor-general; also a khureeta to your address, with abstract translations.

I have, &c.
(signed) *S. Fraser*,
Agent to Governor-general.

Bundelkund, Agency Office, Banda,
2 January 1840.

(No. 30.)

(No. 30.)

TRANSLATION of a Letter from the Raja of Dutteah to the Address of the Right honourable the Governor-General; dated 16 September 1839.

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1839-1840.

No. 5.

(Received 23 September 1839.)

THE fidelity of my father to the British Government is known to the world, and will be found in the records of Government. Lately my father, after suffering for a short time from fever, departed this life for the mansions of bliss on the 19 Sawun, Sumbut 1896, leaving his last injunctions to me to be faithful to the British Government, and to be careful in the good government of the territory. His demise has left me in the deepest sorrow, and my only consolation is in reflecting on the kindness and favour of the British Government, which has always been extended to this state. May the Almighty preserve your Lordship's shadow over the head of your well-wishers and dependents. As my father, by his services to the Government, obtained their favour, he has thereby bequeathed to me a treasure of good fortune; and as it will be a source of credit and prosperity to me to follow his example, I hope that your Lordship will kindly continue your favour towards me. Your Lordship will be further informed of my faithfulness and devotedness by my friend, Mr. S. Fraser.

(True translation.)

(signed) *S. Fraser,*
Agent to Gov^r-gen^l.

(No. 31.)

TRANSLATION of a Letter from the Raja of Dutteah to the Address of the Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces; dated 16 September 1839.

(Received 23 September 1839.)

BY the will of Providence my lamented father, Maharaja Pareechut Bahadoor, after suffering from fever for a short time, paid the debt of nature on the 19th Sawun, 1896 Sumbut, leaving to me his last injunctions to serve the British Government faithfully, and to watch carefully for the good management of the territory. This event has plunged me into the greatest sorrow; and I have addressed a letter on the subject to the Right honourable the Governor-general; and as you have always shown favour to this state, for which may God raise you to elevated rank, I have to request the favour of your presenting the letter to his Lordship, and obtaining for me a favourable reply.

(True translation.)

(signed) *S. Fraser,*
Agent to Gov^r-gen^l.

(No. 32.)

From *S. Fraser*, Esquire, Agent to the Governor-General, Bundelkund, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esquire, Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, with the Right honourable the Governor-General; dated 2 January 1840.

No. 7.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward two khureetas from the Raja of Dutteah, one to the address of the Right honourable the Governor-general, also a khureeta to your address, with abstract translations.

I have, &c.

(signed) *S. Fraser,*
Agent to Gov^r-gen^l.

Bundelkund. Agency Office,
2 January 1840.

Dutteeah Succession,
1839-1840.

(No. 33.)

No. 8.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from the Raja of Dutteeah to the Address of the Right honourable the Governor-General; dated 30 Ramzan, 1255 Hijree.

(Received 23 December 1839.)

AT this happy juncture, the agreeable intelligence that your Lordship purposes proceeding to Calcutta through the territory of Dutteeah has reached me, and having uniformly experienced from your Lordship kindness and consideration, it has imparted to me the greatest joy. It is now my daily prayer to the Almighty to be informed when may be the auspicious day on which I shall enjoy the happiness of meeting your Lordship.

It is my fervent hope that your Lordship, considering me as one entirely devoted to your service, will always do me the favour of writing to me.

(True translation.)

(signed) *S. Fraser,*
Agent to Gov^r-gen^l.

No. 9.

(No. 34.)

TRANSLATION of a Letter from the Raja of Dutteeah to the Address of the Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces; dated 30 Ramzan, 1255 Hijree.

(Received 23 December 1839.)

THE intelligence of the proposed visit of the Right honourable the Governor-general to Dutteeah, and of your accompanying him, has given me great delight; and I shall have the honour of meeting his Lordship and yourself. I have transmitted a letter to his Lordship's address through the agent, Mr. Fraser, my friend and benefactor, which I beg you will kindly present to his Lordship, and obtain for me a favourable reply.

(True translation.)

(signed) *S. Fraser,*
Agent to Gov^r-gen^l.

(No. 4.)

Proceedings,
13 Jan. 1840.

No. 10.

From *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, with the Governor-General, to *S. Fraser*, Esq., Agent to the Governor General, Bundelkund; dated 10 January 1840.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 2d instant, submitting two khureetas from the Raja of Dutteeah, expressive of his desire to have an interview with the Governor-general, and, in reply, to inform you, that his Lordship expects to leave Gwalior, in progress to Calpee, on the 16th instant, and to arrive at the latter station about the 27th instant, and he will be happy to receive the Raja of Dutteeah, if you are of opinion that he should be introduced to his Lordship.

2. Your own attendance in his Lordship's camp will be expected; and you are in the meantime requested to communicate your sentiments to me on the subject of recognizing the young Raja of Dutteeah, and the amount of nuzzerana that should be demanded from him on the occasion.

I have, &c.

(signed) *T. H. Maddock,*
Sec^y to Gov^t, N. W. P., with Gov.-general.

Camp Dhunaila, 10 January 1840.

(No. 28.)

(No. 28.)

Dutteeah Succession,
1839-1840.
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From *S. Fraser*, Esquire, Agent to the Governor-General, Bundelkund, to
T. H. Maddock, Esquire, Secretary to the Government, N. W. P., with the
Right honourable the Governor-General; dated 15 January 1840.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt, late last evening, of your letter of the 10th instant, relative to the wish of the Raja of Dutteeah to be admitted to an interview with the Right honourable the Governor-general.

Proceedings,
24 Feb. 1840,
No. 12.

2. The Raj of Dutteeah being an hereditary independent principality, the questions for consideration on the present occasion appear to be, whether the present incumbent ought to be formally recognized as the chief of the principality, and, if so, on what terms; but these two questions necessarily involve a reference to the principles which constitute the foundation of our policy towards states of the above class in Bundelkund before they can be satisfactorily disposed of.

3. The principle laid down by Sir C. Metcalfe, in his Instructions of the 28th October 1837, is thus expressed in the last para.: to recognize "the succession apparently agreeable to the prince and the people, or to the latter on the demise of the former; that is the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states." The principle laid down by the Honourable the Court of Directors, in their despatch of the 30th of August 1837 (an extract of which was enclosed in Mr. Secretary Macnaghten's letter of the 7th February 1838), is also that of non-interference; but it is added as a general observation, "that it is scarcely ever advisable to recognize any person (especially a person whose hereditary right is doubtful) as successor to any Raj, until there is an actual vacancy. Your recognition of Ruttun Sing, though grounded solely upon the act of Bejye Behadoor, may have contributed greatly to prevent a party from being formed in favour of any other competitor; and although you did not consider Ruttun Sing as raised to the guddee by your act, we have little doubt it would be found that this impression of his having been so generally prevails in Bundelkund, and will not easily be eradicated." Again, in the Court's letter of the 27th March last, it is noted thus: "Our present inclination is, on the whole, in favour of adherence to the rule hitherto in force, but with a stricter observance of it, abstaining from even those slight demonstrations of recognition of the pretensions of particular candidates, which appear generally to produce all the effect of complete support; and especially avoiding to recognize any person as successor in the lifetime of the previous ruler, which we hope you have foreborne to do in the case of the Ooreha Raja."

4. The principle thus expressed has reference chiefly to cases of recognition of a successor during the lifetime of an incumbent; but it is equally applicable to the present case; for the point involved in the discussion is, in fact, whether the Government, in its dealings with the independent states of this class, recognize the incumbent as ruler *de jure* or *de facto*. The Honourable Court's observations are solely directed to the latter. Sir Charles's appear to be chiefly directed to the former.

5. The views of the Honourable Court, as expressed in the case of Chircarrie, there can be no doubt, are in strict accordance with the prevailing impression in the province, and an unexplained recognition of the rights of the present incumbent of the Dutteeah guddee will unquestionably give a support and stability to his authority which, unrecognized, he will not possess. At the same time, to leave him unnoticed by the paramount authority is to expose him to difficulties in the management of the province, and some recognition of him seems unavoidable.

6. Acting upon the principles laid down by the Honourable Court, to recognize him as the chief *de facto*, appears to be the most regular course, but it implies a total renunciation of all reversionary right of succession to the Raj on the part of the British Government under any contingency, for it renders necessary that we should allow whoever can support his authority in the principality to assume the exercise of authority and seize the Raj, and this without reference to his being the rightful heir to the guddee, or in any way connected with the original party to the treaty; but this again alters materially the character of our engagements, which are with a specified chief, and his heirs and successors in perpetuity. On the other hand, these engagements, as will appear from my report of the 7th October 1837, have not been strictly adhered to, and the present modification

Dutteeah Succession,
1839-1840.

of them appears to be perfectly consistent with the general course of our policy heretofore, and to be the simplest practical rule for our Government to pursue.

7. If, on the other hand, we recognize him as the heir *de jure*, we are bound to support his rights against all assailants, and to restrain him from acts of misgovernment; and we must thus be led to interfere in the internal affairs of the state in opposition to the principles above recognized, or we may, at least, be placed in a very embarrassing position.

8. Without adverting, therefore, to the question of right in the case of the present incumbent of the Dutteeah gудdee, it appears to me that, as he is now in undisturbed possession of the territory, he is entitled to recognition as ruler *de facto*. The peaceable state of affairs is, it may be assumed, partly, if not chiefly, owing to the former recognition of the boy during the late Raja's lifetime; but this, if irregular, is now irremediable, and it only remains to impress upon him that his retaining possession of the Raj must depend upon his being able to support himself in the exercise of his authority, and that the interference of our Government in his behalf will extend solely to protection from acts of external aggression.

9. The question of nuzzerana is intimately connected with his Lordship's decision in the above views. If, in accordance with our professed principles of policy, we recognize the present incumbent as ruler *de facto*, I cannot see that we have any just claim to nuzzerana, for we yield him no equivalent, as he may be ousted to-morrow, and we are not called upon to interfere in his behalf. On the contrary, if we act consistently, we must abstain from interference until, as paramount authority, we are called upon to step forward for the preservation of tranquillity in the neighbouring countries. On the other hand, if we recognize him as ruler *de jure*, we may demand a nuzzerana on the occasion; for we thereby engage to support him against opposing interests, and the nuzzerana is the price of our assistance.

10. My own sentiments are in favour of recognizing the present incumbent, without any demand of nuzzerana, as Raja *de facto* of Dutteeah; and I see no objection, therefore, to his being admitted to an interview with the Right honourable the Governor-general; I have accordingly given him notice of his Lordship's approach, and advised him to proceed without delay to the vicinity of Sconda, where he will await further instructions.

11. As regards myself, I shall, as instructed, be in attendance at Sconda, on the Scinde, which is the first station under my agency on his Lordship's arrival.

I have, &c.

(signed) S. Fraser,
Agent to Gov^r-genl.

Bundelkund Agency Office. Camp Burra Mow,
15 January 1840.

EXTRACT Minute by the Governor-General; dated Calpee, 30 January 1840.

No. 13.
Political
Proceedings,
24 Feb. 1840,
No. 13.

THE Government of the minor Raja of Dutteeah has been led to enlist an excessive body of soldiery to protect itself from disturbance: and a commutation of a part of such forces for an efficient body of disciplined men, who will also be at our disposal for the preservation of the general tranquillity, will be of obvious advantage to it. It has accordingly, under my instructions, been proposed to the Raja that he should be released from the condition of the treaty, by which he is bound to hold his forces disposable, at the requisition of the British Government, upon a contribution being made by him to the support of some increase to the Bundelkund legion. I think it possible that this proposition may be entertained, and Mr. Fraser may be instructed in this and in similar cases (as in that of Oorcha), to endeavour to obtain a voluntary consent to its adoption. I might have made it a preliminary condition to my recognition of the Raja's title, which has been open to some doubt; but the adoption of him by his predecessor was allowed to be good by the British Government in 1833, and I felt myself to be absolutely

absolutely precluded from such a course. I was indeed the more inclined to admit his pretensions, as I was satisfied that the country of Dutteeah is very fairly governed, on the part of the young Raja, by the present dewan or minister.

Dutteeah Succession,
1839-1840.

EXTRACT Letter from *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, with the Governor-General, to *S. Fraser*, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General; dated 30 January 1840.

No. 14.

Para. 6. THE Government of the minor Raja of Dutteeah has been led to enlist an excessive body of soldiery to protect itself from disturbance; and a commutation of a part of such forces for an efficient body of disciplined men, who will also be at our disposal for the preservation of the general tranquillity, will be of obvious advantage to it. It has already been proposed to the Raja that he should be released from the condition of the treaty, by which he is bound to hold his forces disposable, at the requisition of the British Government, upon a contribution being made by him to the support of some increase to the Bundelkund legion, and you are authorized to prosecute the measures to its completion. It might indeed have been made a preliminary condition to his Lordship's recognition of the Raja's title, which has been open to some doubt, but the adoption of him by his predecessor was allowed to be good by the British Government in 1833, and the Governor-general felt himself to be absolutely precluded from such a course. His Lordship was the more inclined to admit his pretensions, as he was satisfied that the country of Dutteeah is very fairly governed, on the part of the young Raja, by the present dewan or minister.

(No. 106.)

From Mr Chief Secretary *Swinton* to *M. Ainslie*, Esq., Agent in Bundelkund; dated 3 September 1832.

Sir,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 14th July last, relative to the application, on the part of the Raja of Dutteeah, to adopt a boy as his successor, and to acquaint you, in reply, that it has been forwarded to the Right honourable the Governor-general for his Lordship's consideration and orders.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Geo. Swinton*,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Fort William, 3 December 1832.

(No. 107.)

From Mr. Chief Secretary *Swinton*, to *W. H. Macnaghten*, Esq., Secretary to Governor-General; dated 3 December 1832.

Sir,

I AM directed to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a despatch from the agent in Bundelkund, dated 14th July last, reporting on the right of the Bundala chiefs to adopt their illegitimate offspring, and to state that the Vice-president in Council is not aware of any objection to the Raja of Dutteeah's adoption of the boy, whom he proposes to make his heir, as it appears to be recognized by other chiefs of the same descent, including the heir presumptive of the Dutteeah Raj. In the event of the birth of a legitimate son to the Raja, the adopted one might be set aside, with a suitable provision.

2. Mr. Ainslie will be informed that his despatch has been transmitted for the consideration and orders of his Lordship.

I have, &c.

(signed) *G. Swinton*,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Fort William, 3 September 1832.

Dutteeah Succession,
1839-1840.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations; 9 May 1833.

(No. 54.)

EXTRACT Letter from Secretary to Government, to Governor-General's Agent, Bundelkund; dated 9 May 1833.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters, dated the 14th July and 20th August last, and to inform you that the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council has been pleased to recognize and sanction the adoption, by the Raja of Dutteeah, of a child (name not mentioned), stated by the Raja to have been a foundling; being of opinion, that as the Raja of Dutteeah's adoption of a boy, whom he proposes to make his heir, has been recognized by other chiefs of the same descent, including the heir presumptive of the Dutteeah Raj, there is no objection to a similar recognition on the part of the British Government.

Oorcha Succession,
1837-1842.

Oorcha Succession, 1837-1842.

EXTRACT Agra Political Narrative (North-Western Provinces); dated 31 December 1837.

1837:
Proceedings 28 June,
Nos. 11 & 12.
Proceedings, 28 Oct.,
Nos. 19 to 21.

64. THE agent in Bundelkund submitted translation of a letter from the Raja of Oorcha, soliciting the formal recognition by Government of his adopted son as his successor in the Raj.

65. The subject being one which involved a principle of general application, the agent thought it right, in the first instance, to require from the moohhtar of the parties concerned a more detailed information than was forthcoming in his office, regarding other cases of a similar nature, and, on the receipt of their replies, proposed again addressing Government in regard to the present application.

66. The result submitted by Mr. Fraser involved a question of great importance, affecting the rights and interests of the British Government, and those of the princes and chiefs of Bundelkund.

67. The question resolves itself into whether chiefs and princes, not having heirs of the body, have a right to adopt a successor to the exclusion of collateral heirs, or to the prejudice of the supposed reversionary rights of the paramount power, and whether the British Government is bound to acknowledge the adoption.

68. The Lieutenant-governor remarked that there was a wide difference in the disposal of the question between sovereign princes and jageerdars, between those in possession of hereditary sovereignties in their own right, and those who hold grants of land or public revenue by life-grant from a sovereign or paramount power.

69. In the Lieutenant-governor's opinion, those who are sovereign princes in their own right, and of the Hindoo religion, have, by Hindoo law, a right to adopt to the exclusion of collateral heirs, or of the supposed reversionary right of the paramount power, the latter, in fact, in such cases having no real existence, except in the case of absolute want of heirs, and even then the right was only assumed in virtue of power, for it would probably be more consistent with right were the people of the state so situated left to elect a sovereign for themselves.

70. In the case, therefore, of Hindoo sovereign princes, the Lieutenant-governor considered that, in failure of heirs male of the body, a right to adopt to the exclusion of the collateral heirs existed, and that the British Government was bound to acknowledge such an adoption, provided that it be regular, and not in violation of Hindoo law.

The case of the present Maha Rao of Kotah, who was adopted, afforded an instance in which the right of adoption in a tributary and protected state was fully discussed, and admitted by the British Government as the paramount power.

71. Viewing the subject as it affected Mahomedan sovereigns, there seemed to be greater doubt. The Lieutenant-governor was not aware that they have, by law, a right to adopt, to the exclusion of collateral heirs. Mahomedan sovereigns have, however, more than once claimed a right to nominate a successor from among

among their sons. But the Mahomedan law appeared to be loose with regard to the succession to sovereignties, and the safest way, where we are paramount, or have any right to interfere, is to acknowledge the legitimate successor, according to Mahomedan law.

Oorcha Succession,
1837-1842.

72. With respect to chiefs who merely hold lands, or enjoy public revenue under grants, such as are issued by a sovereign to a subject, the power which made the grant, or that which, by conquest or otherwise, has succeeded to its right, is certainly entitled to restrict succession according to the limitations of the grant, which in general confines it to heirs male of the body, and consequently precludes adoption. In such cases, therefore, the power which granted, or the power standing in its place, would have a right to resume on failure of heirs male of the body.

73. The Agent has been directed to classify the several princes and chiefs within the range of his superintendence, with reference to the classes above described, and to submit, with a list of each class, a statement of his reasons for placing each in the * to which he may have assigned him, and a copy of the treaty and engagement, or grant, by which each chief is connected with our Government.

* Orig.

74. It not being improbable that there would be some chiefs in Bundelcund whom it would be difficult to place in either of the classes noticed, it has been pointed out that those with whom we have treaties, and who were sovereign princes before we were connected with Bundelcund, would naturally be considered as such now. Those who hold solely by grants, such as are issued by sovereign to subject, and have not been generally considered as sovereign princes, will apparently belong to the other class. But there appeared to be an intermediate class in Bundelcund, neither sovereigns nor subjects, with whom we have engagements distinct from treaties or grants, and whom it may be difficult to assign precisely to either of the preceding classes.

In such cases the Agent has been authorized to exercise his discretion, and to state his doubts, accompanied by the documents necessary for their solution.

75. The question submitted by the Agent having originated in an application from the Raja of Oorcha, he has been required to report to what class of chiefs he considered the Raja to belong under the foregoing definitions.

76. The Lieutenant-governor was inclined to consider that he is a sovereign prince, in which case, being a Hindoo, he was entitled to adopt a son and successor in default of heirs of his body, and the adoption of his brother's son would seem to be an unobjectionable arrangement. The recognition, however, of this adoption will depend on the decision of the Right honourable the Governor-general, to whom the whole question discussed in the correspondence will be submitted for consideration on the receipt of the Agent's further report.

77. The Agent had remarked that the past decisions of our Government, in acknowledging successions among the Bundelcund chiefs, have apparently been incoherent, or have not been based on any fixed principle, with advertence to which it has been explained to that officer, that the principle which has generally operated on such occasions has been that of recognizing the succession apparently agreeable to the prince and the people, or to the latter on the demise of the former; that is, the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states.

EXTRACT Political Letter from India; dated 15 February (No. 11) 1842.

1. WE have the honour to submit copies of a correspondence with the Lieutenant-governor of the North-Western Provinces, and of the documents in connexion therewith, regarding the alleged participation or connivance of the Raja of Oorcha in the insurrection of the jageerdar of Chergaon; an occurrence which was duly communicated to your Honourable Court by this Government, and the mode in which we have determined, under the circumstances of the case, to notice the Raja's conduct on the occasion referred to; the fact of guilty participation having appeared to us to be sufficiently established against him.

Political, 1841.
19 July, Nos. 12 & 13.
Political, 1841-42,
17 January, Nos. 6
to 12.
Letter dated 12 May,
No. 29, of 1841.

Oorcha Succession,
1837-1842.

2. Your Honourable Court will observe that, viewing this chief as a ruler whose sovereign rights have been acknowledged by treaty, we were of opinion that the question of his right to adopt an heir, or of our recognition of that right, ought not to be blended with the consideration of the punishment to which he should be subjected for his recent opposition to the British power.

EXTRACT from the Narrative of Proceedings of the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor, North Western Provinces, in the Political Department, for April, May and June 1842; dated 5 December (No. 1) 1842.

Proceedings, 1842,
3 Feb., Nos. 22 & 23,
7 April, Nos. 62 to 67,
16 „ 119 to 123.

53. THE proceedings marginally noted relate to the question of succession to the Oorcha Raj, and the subsequent death of the Raja of Oorcha.

54. The conduct of the Raja of Oorcha in covertly aiding and abetting the jagheerदार of Chirgong in his late rebellion, had drawn upon him the marked displeasure of the Supreme Government; but from various considerations, the details of which are given at length in these proceedings, at the recommendation of the Agent in Bundelcund, the communication to the Raja of the views of Government in regard to the part he took in the Chirgong matter was deferred.

55. The Agent deemed it now expedient to connect these proceedings with the question of succession. On the 30th of March last, a translation of a letter was submitted by Mr. Fraser, from the Raja of Oorcha, soliciting the sanction of Government to the succession of Mohundur Soojun Sing, as his adopted son, with a suggestion that, for the present, Government would allow matters to take their natural course, and that the recognition of the claims of the Raj be held in abeyance until it be ascertained whether he was acceptable to the influential members of the principality or not.

56. At this juncture, the Agent, in a letter of 1st April last, announced the demise, on the 30th ultimo, of Maharaja Mohunder Tej Sing Bahadoor, the Raja of Oorcha: the vakeel who presented Soojun Singh's letter, intimating the event, requested the Government to write a letter of condolence to the young boy; but the Agent replied that he would defer addressing him until the Government, after a review of all the circumstances of the boy's claims, should communicate for their instructions to him.

57. Mr. Fraser was informed that his reply to the vakeel appeared to the Government to evince a doubt on his part as to the ready recognition of Soojun Sing's letter, by the leading persons of the Raj, rather than any uncertainty as to the views of his own government.

58. The Government had therefore been led to review the whole of the correspondence which had passed relative to a succession to the Oorcha Raj.

59. The records of Government show that on the 7th June 1837 the Agent transmitted translation of a letter from the Raja of Oorcha (the deceased Raja Mohunder Tej Sing) to the Government of Agra, announcing the adoption of his brother's son, Koonwur Soojun Sing, the youth now alluded to, according to the rites required by the Shastree, and alluding to a previous announcement of the act, in a letter, dated 11 Shewn 1252 (corresponding with January 19th, 1827), to the Agent, soliciting that this Government would authorize that a khelaut of recognition should be conferred.

60. On the 7th of October the Agent submitted a further report on the general question of succession to chiefships in Bundelcund, which led to a reference to the letter from this department of the 28th of that month, conveying the views of the then Lieutenant-governor, Sir Charles Metcalfe, on the subject.

61. The views laid down in this despatch are referred to in para. 6 of Mr. Secretary Maddock's letter of the 17th January last, communicating the decision of the Right honourable the Governor-general of India in Council on the right of the Raja of Oorcha to adopt a successor, as to the exercise of which the Supreme Government distinctly say that it is impossible to raise a question.

62. The right to adopt having thus been formally acknowledged, it only remained to inquire whether that right had been properly exercised, or, in other words, whether the adoption of Soojun Sing was regular, and not in violation of Hindoo law.

63. It has already been shown that the act of adoption was made known to the Agent so far back as 11 Shawul 1252, or A.D. 1837, January 19th; that this

Vide p. 64 to 77 of
Narr. for third Quar-
ter of 1827.

Vide Proceedings,
3 February, No. 22.

this act was reported by the Agent to Government, and that, up to the period of the demise of Raja Mohunder Tej Sing, the boy (adopted son), Soojun Sing, continued uninterruptedly to reside and to be brought up in the deceased Raja's family; that on the occasion of the Agent's last visiting the Raja, when his approaching dissolution was not apprehended, the Raja therewith presented Soojun Sing to him, and solicited for him his protection and support.

64. On referring to the enclosure of the Agent's letter, dated 30 March,* a letter from the deceased Raja to his address, dated 28th *idem*, it appeared that the Raja formally insulted† Soojun Sing on the guddee, and virtually abdicated in his favour.

65. In para. 5 of his letter of 24th March, the Agent states there are two parties in Oorcha; one, at present the principal one, supporting the Raja's nomination, and the other declaring the Raja to have obtained the Raj fraudulently, and therefore supporting the right of the widow of the son of the late Raja to nominate a successor.

66. Mr. Fraser was reminded that no question could be allowed to be agitated which might throw a doubt on that which the British Government had distinctly recognized. The late Raja, Mohunder Tej Sing, must be considered to have been the legitimate and recognized sovereign; no discussion on that point could therefore be permitted; and as no objection had been raised to the adoption made by him, which had been known to the chiefs for a period of five years, the Government felt no hesitation in declaring, that unless there were objections of more cogency than the Agent seemed to anticipate, it would be impolitic to postpone doing whatever might be necessary to give stability to the Raj, and put an end to all speculation on the course which the British Government, as the paramount power, was desirous of pursuing.

67. The Agent submitted, subsequently, a draft of his letter to Soojun, intimating his recognition as the future Chief of Oorcha, which, being in accordance with the instructions conveyed to him, was fully approved.

EXTRACT Agra Political Consultations; 28 June 1837.

(No. 11.)

From the Agent in Bundelcund to the Officiating Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor, North-Western Provinces (7 June 1837).

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith translation of a letter from the Raja of Oorcha, soliciting the formal recognition by Government of his adopted son as his successor in the Raj.

2. The subject being one which involves a principle of general application, I have thought it right in the first instance to require from the mokhtars of the parties concerned more detailed information than is forthcoming in the office regarding other cases of a similar nature, and on the receipt of their replies shall have the honour of again addressing Government in regard to the present application.

I have, &c.

(signed) *S. Fraser,*

Agent to the Lieut.-Governor, N. W. P.

Bundelcund Agency Office, Banda,
7 June 1837.

(No. 12.)

TRANSLATION of a Letter from the Raja of Oorcha to the Honourable the Lieutenant-governor, Agra.

Sir,

HAVING no offspring, I have adopted my brother's son, Koonwur Soorjun Sing, according to the rites required by the Shaster, and I have cherished him with the care of a father from the day of his birth. I formerly addressed the Agent, on the 11th Showal 1252, H., stating that I had made the adoption, and that I should shortly write, requesting a khelaut in recognition of my adopted son as

Oorcha Succession,
1837-1842.

This was not submitted to Government, as further communication on the subject was then promised by the Raja.

my successor. This will probably have been communicated to you, the continuance of this ancient principality being dependent upon your favourable consideration of my wishes. I have to solicit that, in conformity with the friendly attention which I have all along experienced, you will gratify me, in my old age, by sanctioning the bestowal by the Agent of a *khelaut* of recognition in my adopted son, who will at all times deem himself happy in the display of his fidelity to the British Government.

(True translation.)

(signed) *S. Fraser*,
Agent to the Lieutenant-governor, N. W. P.

EXTRACT Agra Political Consultations ; 28 October 1837.

(No. 19.)

From the Agent in Bundelcund to *R. N. C. Hamilton*, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Lieutenant-governor, North-Western Provinces, Agra (7th October 1837).

Sir,

I HAVE now the honour to submit, for the consideration and orders of the Honourable the Lieutenant-governor, the further report promised in my letter of the 7th June last, regarding the application of the Raja of Oorcha, soliciting the formal recognition by Government of his adopted son as his successor in the raj.

2. As already stated in my former letter, I was anxious, before submitting this report, to ascertain from the *wukeels* of the parties and the records of the office the peculiar circumstances under which certain principalities and *jagheers* have been continued to persons not being lineal descendants of their immediate predecessors, and whether the succession had been admitted as a matter of right, or merely an act of consideration ; and also, whether the persons so succeeding were the individuals who, under the laws of inheritance prevailing in the families respectively, would have been entitled to succeed.

3. I have accordingly obtained genealogical trees of the families in question, and have carefully examined the *sunnuds* granted to them by the British Government, as well as the correspondence in the office connected with the particular cases of succession alluded to.

4. The accompanying statement, No. 1, exhibits the several instances since the date of our engagements in which other grounds of claim than that of lineal descent have been sanctioned by Government, with a specification of the terms of the engagements with Government, and the position in which the successor stood at the time of the sanction relatively to collateral heirs. In all other cases the succession has been from father to son.

5. It will be observed, that in four instances the right of succession has been recognized solely in conformity with the wishes of the reigning chief. In one of these cases (No. 1) the wish was expressed during his lifetime, and three (Nos. 2, 3 and 4) it was not made known till after his death. In the former case (No. 1) the successor was an illegitimate grandchild, admitted to succeed to the prejudice of the collateral heirs. In the Nawab of Banda's case (No. 2) he was the collateral heir. In one of the latter cases (No. 3) the succession was admitted on the collateral heirs of superior pretensions withdrawing their claim ; and in the other (No. 4) in consideration of a testamentary deed of the late chief.

6. In two cases (Nos. 5 and 6) questionable adoptions have been sanctioned on the collateral heirs of superior pretensions withdrawing their claims.

7. In one instance (No. 7) an adoption has been permitted to the prejudice of all the collateral heirs ; whilst in another instance (No. 8) the right of the collateral heir has been upheld in opposition to a claim of right by adoption ; and in the remaining instance (No. 9) the chief took possession of the raj, being at the time the collateral heir.

S. I have

- 1 Chircarree.
- 2 Banda.
- 3 Browder.
- 4 Jalsun.

- 5 Beree.
- 6 Beejawen.

- 7 Duttera.
- 8 Jhansi.

- 9 Oorcha.

8. I have not thought it necessary to carry these details further back than the date of our engagements, because the state of affairs antecedent thereto offers no analogy to that of the succeeding period, but chiefly because it appears to me that the rights of the several chiefs and jagheerdars, or their claims to favourable consideration, can only be equitably decided upon with reference to the terms of their engagements. The system of former rule recognized no rights further than they might be made subservient to effect objects of policy or convenience, and the claims of adoption or of younger brothers were in turn admitted, to the prejudice of others, as they harmonized with these views. But such a course cannot be pursued by our Government, and many rights, altogether new, having been created, and others of a questionable character confirmed, and possession in all instances supported by our engagements under specific stipulations, I conceive that the rights of the chiefs can only be admitted to the extent therein recognized.

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1837-1842.

9. But in all the engagements entered, Statement No. 1, the contracting parties are the Government on one side, and the chiefs or jageerdars and their heirs (limited to lineal descent) on the other, and the terms used, evidently indiscriminately, in the body of the sunnuds or engagements (omlad* and ukhlaff,* and ikfad†) in reference to these parties, are in like manner applicable only to lineal descendants; indeed, this interpretation was strongly insisted on by the late Raja of Chircarrie, on the occasion of his urging the right of his illegitimate grandson to succeed him.

* Children.
† Grandchildren.

10. Nevertheless, either from motives of policy or for other reasons, Government has apparently waived its claim on the occasions referred to.

11. Much of this forbearance appears to have been personal towards the chiefs, with whom the engagements were originally concluded, and was in all probability also influenced by other considerations of a temporary nature; but the individuals alluded to have, with few exceptions, passed away from the scene, and the state of affairs has materially changed; and no uniform line of conduct having been pursued in the instances cited, the present appears to be a favourable opportunity to decide whether the terms of the engagements distinctly define the rights of both parties, or if otherwise, what principle shall guide the future proceedings of the public authorities towards the chiefs of this province on such occasions.

*Vide Orders of
Government of
7 May 1832, para. 3,
calling for Report
on the representa-
tions of the widows
of Nawab Shum-
shere Behadoor.*

12. The question thus brought forward is one of great importance, for at the present moment tracts of country, yielding a revenue of at least 45 lacs of rupees, are held by chiefs or jageerdars who have no lineal descendants; and according to Statement No. 3, territory yielding a revenue of upwards of 45 lacs yearly has already passed into the hands of persons who had originally a doubtful claim to it; and the only territory to succeed to which lineal heirs are at present in existence, is limited to tracts yielding under 9 lacs.

*Vide No. 2.
Vide No. 3.*

Vide No. 4.

13. The present application affords a favourable occasion to bring the general question to a decision, as the state of Oorcha is the leading principality of Bundelcund, and the present chief, having succeeded his brother as collateral heir in 1834, can urge no special claim to adopt, to the prejudice of Government or collateral heirs.

14. The right of the British Government, as paramount power, to resume hereditary territory which lapses for want of heirs, has, I believe, been asserted and acted upon in other parts of India; and if so, I am not aware of any peculiarity in the case of Bundelcund which should exempt it from the operation of the general rule. Indeed, in the recent correspondence regarding the estate of the late Thakooran Doolza, of the Calinger family, the right of Government to resume in case of there being no heirs is urged by Mr. Secretary Bushby; and in the matter of pensions granted in the identical language used in the Bundelcund engagements, the right of resumption has been upheld and enforced.

15. In regard to the latter, also, the right of adopted children has been disallowed, under the sanction of the Court of Directors, with a proviso only in favour "of cases in which either established practice or expressed understanding has encouraged the holders to expect that indulgence." At present the estates of Bundelcund cannot be brought within the influence of either of these exceptions; but if the right of a chief to dispose of his principality or jagheer, as he would of

*Vide Letter from
the Court, dated
27 May 1835.*

Oorcha Succession,
1837-1842.

personal property, be repeatedly recognized, and the validity of the transfer admitted, claims of the present description will shortly wear a different aspect.

16. In the cases noted in the Statement No. 1, no fixed principle of succession seems to have governed the decision of Government; but it appears that a wish has prevailed that the right of the successor should be acknowledged by disinterested parties in the state, and that Government is willing to recognize him under such circumstances. But Government seem not to be fully aware of the value of its recognition in the case of Jhansi. The bare admission of the right of the present chief to succeed, if he could establish his authority, enabled him to take possession of the estate without opposition, although its management was at the time in the hands of others, and he was in the situation of a private individual.

17. Yet, supposing Government to be willing to waive its own claim, and to leave arrangements of this nature to be adjusted by local influence, it seems doubtful whether it can equitably overlook the claims of collateral heirs; it refuses to recognize the validity of adoption as a bar to its own claims, and the principle, if just, should be made applicable to cases where it has to adjudicate in respect to the rights of others; and indeed, owing to contingent circumstances, the decision in the cases of Duttea and Chircurrie appear to be the only occasions in which the claims of the collateral heirs have not been fully held in respect.

18. As, however, no right founded upon existing engagements, or upon the rules of inheritance, has, it seems, uniformly constituted the ground-work of the proceedings of Government on former occasions of applications similar to the present, the decision in the case will in all probability be governed by general views of policy, and in respect to these no observations will, of course, be expected from me; but I respectfully submit, that, as the supreme authority in this country, we are called upon, when proper opportunities offer, to endeavour to ameliorate the condition of those dependent upon us, by providing the best available institutions for the protection of their rights; and this cannot be effected by entrusting large tracts of country to the control of authorities devoid of energy, and whose influence is everywhere rapidly decaying under the withering effects of internal dissension and exhausted resources. The present condition of many of the leading states of Bundelcund exhibits a lamentable display of the total inefficiency of such means to effect the objects of good government; and before personal consideration towards individuals is allowed to interfere beyond the limits of existing engagements, to the prejudice of the interests of thousands, it deserves grave consideration whether more suitable arrangements might not, and ought not, to be framed.

19. It must be hardly necessary to state further, that I do not think the present application should be acceded to, more especially as the adopted heir is not the next of kin.

I have, &c.

(signed) *S. Fraser,*
Agent to the Lieutenant-Governor,
N. W. P.

Bundelcund Agency Office, Banda,
7 October 1837.

(No. 20.)

No. I.—STATEMENT of CASES referred to in Para. 4.

Principality.	Terms of Engagements.	Next Heir.	Ground of Claim to Succession.	Name of Heir, and his Relationship to his Predecessor.	REMARKS.
1. Chickoree -	-- Nusulunbad Nusulun Buturumbad Buturun to the Raja, his uklaff and onlad.	-- Roodur Sing Khit Sing, &c.	-- Raja Bhickmajeet Bijye, Bahadoor, first Raja nominated during his lifetime.	-- Raja Ruttun Sing, illegitimate grandson of the first Raja.	The present Raja was cognised as heir at the request of his grandfather, to the prejudice of the collateral heirs, under the orders of Government, dated 4th May 1822.
2. Banda -	-- Nusulunbad Nusulun Buturumbad Buturun.	-- The present incumbent was next of kin to the deceased.	-- Nawab Shumshere, Behadoor, first Nawab nominated by testament.	-- Nuwah Toolficar Allee, half brother of the first Nawab.	The present Nawab was allowed to succeed in conformity with the purport of a testamentary deed of the late Nawab, by orders of Government, dated 31st October 1823; the original engagement in this case, although hereditary, was held to extend to the Nawab's family generally.
3. Beroadee -	-- Tā Dowām and Istenuar to the Raja and uklaff.	-- Subdul Sing and Dalgungun Sing, elder brother of Soorabjeet Singh.	-- Rajah Mohun Singh, the first Rajah, was supposed to wish his succession.	-- Raja Surrahjeet Sing, brother, son of Raja Mohun Sing, the first Raja.	The present Raja's right was admitted, 10th July 1827, on the elders withdrawing their claim in conformity with the wish of the late Raja.
4. Jaloun -	-- Nusulunbad Nusulun Buturumbad Buturun to the Chief, his ikfud and onlad.	-- No collateral heir of near consanguinity.	-- Rao Balu Rao, Second Chief of Jaloun, nominated by testament.	-- Rao Gobund Rao, brother of the widow of the Second Chief of Jaloun.	The right of succession, according to the rules of inheritance, seem to have been recognized in the orders of Government, dated 31 June 1832; but it does not appear from the orders of 9th May, whether the present Chief's right was admitted on an alleged adoption, or in conformity with a testamentary deed of the late Chief.
5. Jageer of Beree.	-- Nusulunbad Nusulun Buturumbad Buturun to the Dewan, and his uklaff.	-- Rao Sahib, the late Jageerdsr's first cousin, was next of kin.	-- Widow of Jaojal Pershad, when about to sacrifice herself, named Thurum Sing as successor to her deceased husband.	-- Dewan Pheerun Sing was the son of the first cousin of Dewan Jaopul Pushaad, the first Jageerdar.	¶ Rao Sahib renounced all pretension to succeed in favour of his son.
6. Bijawar -	-- Nusulunbad Nusulun Buturumbad Buturum to the Raja, and his uklaff.	-- Dewan Khit Sing, brother of the late Raja, was next of kin.	-- Widow of Raja Ruttum Sing, the first Raja, adopted after his demise.	-- Raja Luchmun Sing, nephew of the first Raja.	Dewan Khet Sing acquiesced in the succession of his son.
7. Dutteea -	-- Nusulunbad Nusulun Buturumbad Buturum.	-- No inquiry was made regarding the heirs.	-- Rao Raja Paru Chut, the first Raja, has adopted Bijye, Behadoor, as his successor.	-- Bijye, Behadoor, a foundling, altogether unconnected with the family.	The boy is declared to be an illegitimate son of the Raja by Mr. Ainslie; but this, I have reason to believe, is inaccurate. The statement generally credited is contained in the Raja's letter which accompanied Mr. Ainslie's report of 14th July 1832.
8. Jhansi -	-- Nusulunbad Nusulun to the Chief, his Waniam, and James Heenan, heirs and successors.	-- Rao Ragonath Rao was next of kin.	By succession -	-- Rao Rugonath Rao, brother of the first Chief Raja Ramchund Rao.	The widow urged a right of adoption, but it was overruled.
9. Oorcha -	-- Nusulunbad Nusulun Buturumbad Buturum to the Raja, and his amlad and uklaff.	-- Raja Tej Sing was the next of kin.	By succession -	-- Raja Tej Sing is the brother of Raja Mahinden Bikumajeet, the first Raja.	The Raja took possession of the Raj on his brother's death.

(signed) S. Fraser,
Agent to the Lt.-Govt, N.W.P.

No. 2.—LIST of CHIEFS who have at present no Heirs, with Estimated Amount of Annual Revenue.

No.	NAME OF CHIEF.	Age.	NAME of TERRITORY.	AMOUNT of REVENUE.	REMARKS.
				Rs.	
1	Maharaja Mohunder Teg Sing - - -	65	Oorcha - -	6,00,000	brother of first Raja.
2	Maharaja Hurbun Roy - - - -	25	Punnah - -	4,00,000	son of first Raja.
3	Dewan Madho Sing, son of Raja Bukht Sing	23	Adjgarh - -	1,75,000	- - ditto.
4	Maharaja Pancuhut - - - - -	30	Jeitpoor - -	60,000	- - ditto.
5	Maharaja Purtub Sing - - - - -	55	Chutterpoor -	2,50,000	- - ditto.
6	Raja Luckmun Sing - - - - -	18	Byjawar - -	3,50,000	heir of first Raja.
7	Maharaja Ragonath Rao - - - - -	40	Jhansi - -	7,00,000	uncle of second Chief.
8	Baboo Gobind Rao - - - - -	12	Jaloun - -	10,00,000	heir of second Chief.
9	Raja Hindooput - - - - -	11	Sumpthun -	4,50,000	son of first Raja.
10	Rao Bhopaul Sing, Jagheerdar - - -	8	Signee - -	10,000	- - ditto.
11	Rao Kumodh Sing, Jagheerdar - - -	30	Behut - -	15,000	son of second Chief.
12	Koomeven Jugut Sing, Jagheerdar - -	35	Nygowan - -	10,000	son of first Chief.
13	Choubeh Juggonath, Jagheerdar - - -	30	Nygam - -	10,000	- - ditto.
14	Choubeh Luchmapershand, Jagheerdar -	22	Poorwa - -	5,000	- - ditto.
15	Choubeh Teerutpershand, Jagheerdar -	17	Phyunda - -	4,000	- - ditto.
16	Dewan Pahar Sing - - - - -	30	Jusso - -	15,000	- - ditto.
17	Koomwur Henpershand - - - - -	20	Toree Futtehpoor	50,000	first Jageerdar.
18	Issore Sing Bunkur - - - - -	30	Tihara - -	8,000	- - ditto.
19	Rao Gopaul Loll - - - - -	30	Kampta - -	1,500	- - ditto.
20	Maharaja Ruttun Sing - - - - -	25	Chinaree - -	4,00,000	heir of first Raja.
TOTAL - Rs.				45,13,500	

(signed) S. Fraser,
Agent to the Lieut.-Governor, N. W. P.

Note :—Those are called first Rajas and first Jageerdars with whom we concluded the engagements now in force.

(signed) S. Fraser, Agent.

No. 3.—STATEMENT of the REVENUE of LANDS, &c., held as per Statement, No. 1.

No.	NAME OF CHIEF.	Age.	NAME of TERRITORY.	AMOUNT of REVENUE.	REMARKS.
				<i>Rs.</i>	
1	Maharaja Beyj Behadoor, adopted son of Maharaja Paruchut Behadoor - - - - -	11	Dutteah - -	10,00,000	heir of first Raja.
2	Maharaja Rugonath Rao - - - - -	40	Jhansi - -	7,00,000	uncle of second Chief.
3	Bubao Govind Rao - - - - -	12	Jalavun - -	10,00,000	heir of second ditto.
4	Maharaja Ruttun Sing - - - - -	25	Chircarree -	4,00,000	illegitimate grandson of first Chief.
5	Raja Sunubjeet Sing - - - - -	40	Beronda - -	4,50,000	heir of first Raja.
6	Nawab Toolfigar Allee Behadoor - - - - -	38	Banda - -	4,00,000	brother of first Nawab.
7	Deewan Ghurun Sing - - - - -	30	Beree - -	25,000	heir of first Jagheerदार.
8	Raja Luehmen Sing - - - - -	18	Beyawur - -	3,50,000	- - ditto.
9	Maharaja Teg Sing - - - - -	65	Oorcha - -	6,00,000	
TOTAL - <i>Rs.</i>				45,20,000	

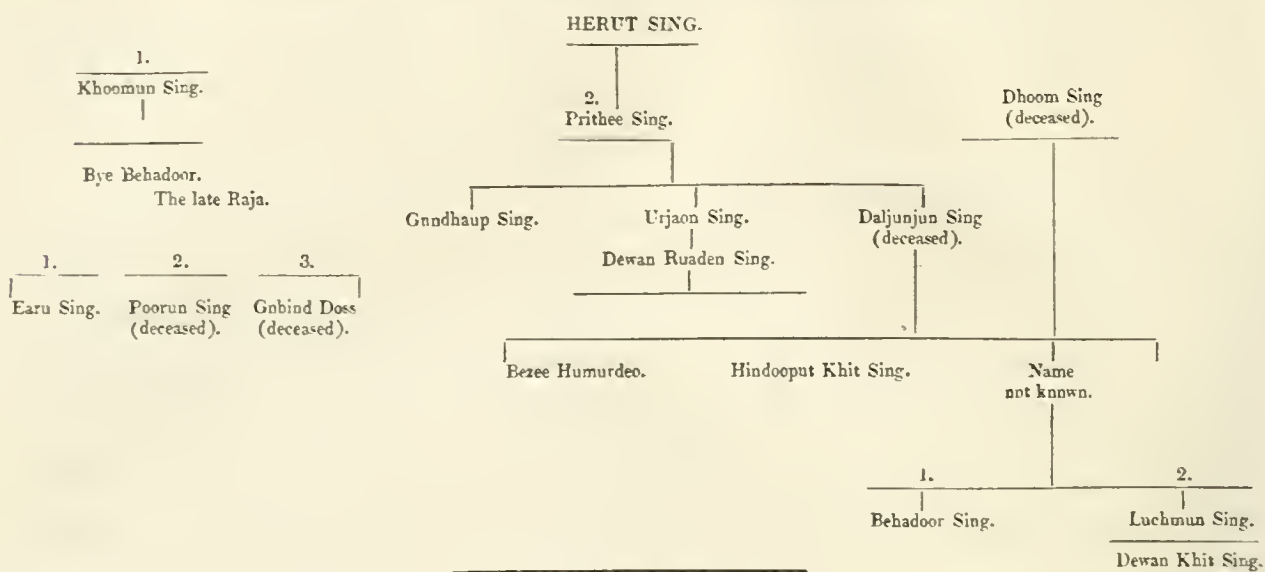
(signed) *S. Fraser,*
Agent to the Lieut.-Governor, N. W. P.

No. 4.—LIST of CHIEFS who have Heirs, with estimated Amount of Annual Revenue.

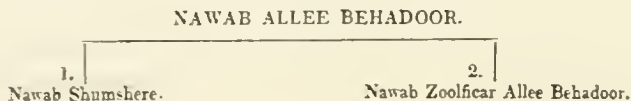
No.	NAME OF CHIEF.	Age.	NAME of TERRITORY.	AMOUNT of REVENUE.	REMARKS.
				<i>Rs.</i>	
1	Raja Soombjeet Sing - - - - -	40	Burrownda -	45,000	heir of first Raja.
2*	Nawab Yoolficur Ally Behadoor - - - - -	38	Banda - -	4,00,000	brother of first Nawab.
3	Rajah Unrood Sing - - - - -	45	Sunla - -	45,000	son of first Raja.
4	Nawab Amceerool Moodke Behadoor - - - - -	47	Baoree - -	1,00,000	son of first Nawab.
5	Dewan Pheerun Sing - - - - -	30	Beree - -	25,000	heir of first Jagheerदार.
6	Rao Phanchueur Sing - - - - -	55	Allypoor - -	50,000	son of first Jagheerदार.
7	Dewan Sirdar Sing - - - - -	45	Logassee - -	15,000	- - ditto.
8	Dewan Behadoor Puruchul - - - - -	18	Ganowlee - -	15,000	- - ditto.
9	Rajah Ram Killadar - - - - -	74	Goribur - -	65,000	first Jagheerदार.
10	Pursram Behadoor - - - - -	72	Khurdee - -	15,000	- - ditto.
11	Chowbeh Nathoo Ram - - - - -	35	Paldro - -	10,000	son of first Jagheerदार.
12	Chowbeh Salikram - - - - -	65	Puhrah - -	5,000	first Jagheerदार.
13	Chowbeh Gyapushad - - - - -	40	Turam - -	5,000	- - ditto.
14	Dewan Soorjen Sing - - - - -	55	Bijna - -	15,000	- - ditto.
15	Dewan Boodh Sing - - - - -	40	Doorjee - -	15,000	- - ditto.
16	Rao Behadoor Bukht Sing - - - - -	45	Chargain - -	25,000	- - ditto.
TOTAL - - - <i>Rs.</i>				8,50,000	

* This is a money grant.

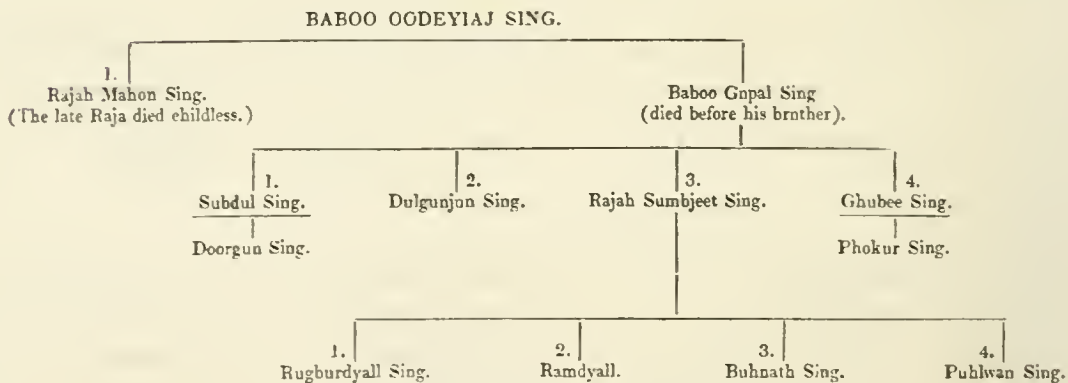
1. CHIRCAREE.



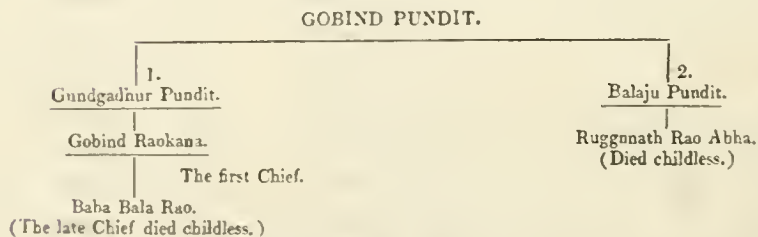
2. BANDA.



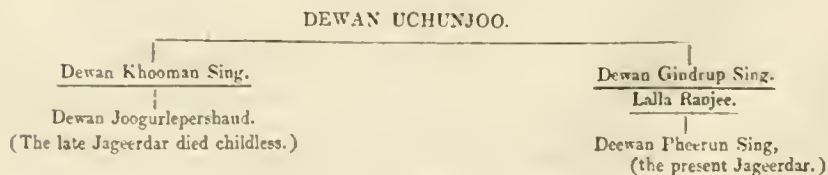
3. BEROUDA.



4. JALOUN.



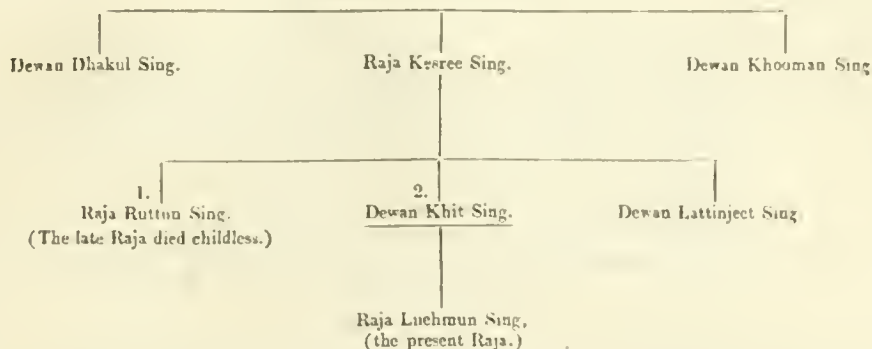
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6. BIJAWUR.

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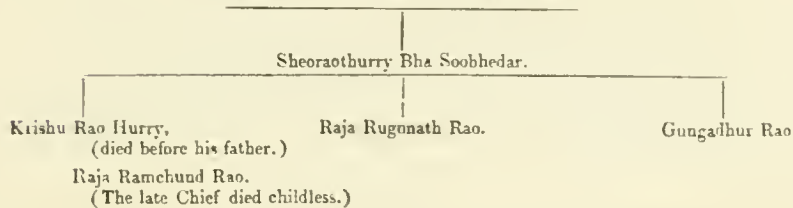


7. DUTTEEA.

(No inquiries made.)

8. JHANSI.

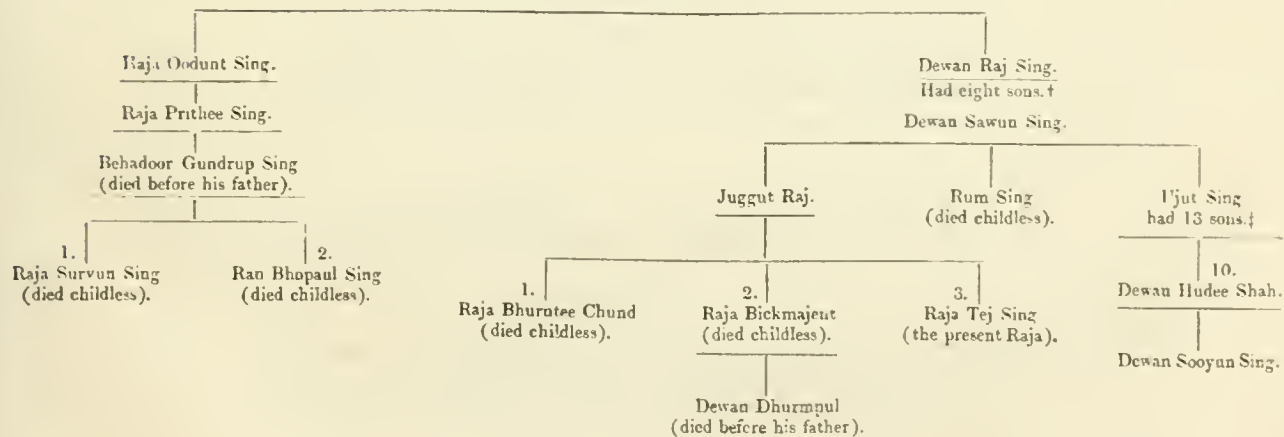
DAMOODHUR HURRY SOOBHEDAR.



9. OORCHA.

RAJA PERTAUB SINGH.

Had six sons.*



* Raja Pertaub Sing had six sons.—1. Rao Jaskurm Jeo; 2. Raja Oodunt Sing; 3. Dewan Raj Sing; 4. Dewan Bhugum Sing; 5. Dewan Paurchum Sing; 6. Dewan Uchul Sing.

† Dewan Raj Sing had eight sons.—1. Luchmun Sing; 2. Futteh Sing; 3. Mohkum Sing; 4. Maum Sing; 5. Sawun Sing; 6. Hindoo Sing; 7. Bhopal Sing; 8. Omed Sing.

‡ Ujut Sing had 13 sons.—1. Inderjeet; 2. Dhun Sing; 3. Beje Behadoor; 4. Rao Bukht Sing; 5. Sookkun; 6. Dhoormugud; 7. Suttuljeet; 8. Soorjun Sing; 9. Kishan Sing; 10. Dewan Hudee Sab; 11. Puhar Sing; 12. Rampershaud; 13. Surroop Sing.

Oorcha Succession.
1837-1842.

LIST of CORRESPONDENCE.

No. 1.—CHIRCARRÉE.

No.

1. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 4th September 1821.
2. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 13th October 1821.
3. Government Letter to the Agent, dated 26th January 1822.
4. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 10th March 1822.
5. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 8th April 1822.
6. Government Letter to the Agent, dated 4th May 1823.
7. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 1st August 1823.
8. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 8th October 1823.
9. Government's Letter to the Agent, dated 24th October 1823.

No. 2.—BANDA.

10. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 5th September 1823.
11. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 6th September 1823.
12. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 9th September 1823.
13. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 30th September 1823.
14. Government Letter to the Agent, dated 31st October 1823.
15. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 15th December 1823.
16. Government Letter to the Agent, dated 9th January 1824.

No. 3.—JALOUN.

17. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 17th January 1832.
18. Government Letter to the Agent, dated 31st January 1832.
19. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 8th August 1832.
20. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 6th April 1833.
21. Government Letter to the Agent, dated 8th May 1833.
22. Government Letter to the Agent, dated 9th May 1833.
23. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 25th June 1834.
24. Government Letter to the Agent, dated 25th July 1834.
25. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 16th September 1834.

No. 5.—BEREE.

26. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 24th April 1814.
27. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 15th June 1814.
28. Government Letter to the Agent.

No. 6.—BEEJAWUR.

29. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 19th December 1833.
30. Government Letter to the Agent, dated 10th April 1834.
31. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 21st April 1834.
32. Government Letter to the Agent, dated 8th May 1834.
33. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 20th May 1835.
34. Government Letter to the Agent, dated 27th May 1835.

No. 7.—DUTTUAH.

35. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 14th July 1832.
36. Government Letter to the Agent, dated 9th May 1833.

No. 8.—JHANSI.

37. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 25th August 1835.
38. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 5th October 1835.
39. Government Letter to the Agent, dated 9th December 1835.

No. 9.—OORCHA.

40. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 28th June 1834.
41. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 29th July 1834.
42. Government Letter to the Agent, dated 29th August 1834.
43. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 2d October 1835.
44. Agent's Letter to Government, dated 16th October 1835.
45. Government Letter to the Agent, dated 9th December 1835.

(signed) S. Fraser,
Agent to the Lieutenant-Governor N. W. P.

THE Honourable the Lieutenant-governor records the following Minute on the foregoing subject:—

Oorcha Succession,
1837-1842.

MINUTE by the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces in the Political Department; dated 28 October 1837.

THE Agent in Bundelcund has submitted, in his despatch, dated the 7th instant, with laudable public spirit and ability, a question of great importance affecting the rights and interests of the British Government, and those of the princes and chief of Bundelcund.

2. The question is, whether chiefs and princes, not having heirs of the body, have a right to adopt a successor, to the exclusion of collateral heirs, or of the supposed reversionary rights of the paramount power; and whether the British Government is bound to acknowledge the adoption?

3. In the disposal of this question there is a wide difference, to which Mr. S. Fraser has not adverted, between sovereign princes and jagceerdars; between those in possession of hereditary sovereignties in their own right, and those who hold grants of land or public revenue by gift from a sovereign or paramount power.

4. Those who are sovereign princes in their own right and of the Hindoo religion have by Hindoo law a right to adopt, to the exclusion of collateral heirs, or of the supposed reversionary right of the paramount power; the latter, in fact, in such cases having no real existence, except in the case of absolute want of heirs; and even then the right is only assumed in virtue of power; for it would probably be more consistent with right that the people of the state so situated should elect a sovereign for themselves.

5. In the case, therefore, of Hindoo sovereign princes, I should say that in failure of heirs male of the body, they have a right to adopt, to the exclusion of collateral heirs, and that the British Government is bound to acknowledge the adoption, provided that it be regular, and not in violation of Hindoo law. The present Maha Rao of Kota was adopted, and his case affords an instance in which the right of adoption in a tributary and protected * was fully discussed and admitted by the British Government as the paramount power.

* *Sic orig.*

6. In the case of Mahomedan sovereigns there seems to be greater doubt. I do not know that they have by law a right to adopt to the exclusion of collateral heirs. Mahomedan sovereigns have, however, more than once claimed a right to nominate a successor from among their sons; but the Mahomedan law appears to be loose with regard to succession to sovereignties, and the safest way, where we are paramount, or have any right to interfere, is to acknowledge the legitimate successor according to Mahomedan law.

7. With respect to chiefs who merely hold lands or enjoy public revenue under grants such as are issued by a sovereign to a subject, the power which made the grant, or that which by conquest or otherwise has succeeded to its rights, is certainly entitled to limit succession according to the limitations of the grant, which in general confines it to heirs male of the body, and consequently precludes adoption. In such cases, therefore, the power which granted, or the power standing in its place, would have a right to resume on failure of heirs male of the body.

8. These sentiments are to be communicated to the Agent in Bundelcund, with a request that he will classify the princes and chiefs within the range of his superintendence, with reference to the classes above described, and submit, with a list of the several classes, a statement of his reasons for placing such in the class to which he may have assigned him, and a copy of the treaty, engagement or grant by which each chief is connected with our Government.

9. It is not improbable that there are some chiefs in Bundelcund whom it may be difficult to place in either of the classes noticed. Those with whom we have treaties, and who were sovereign princes before we were connected with Bundelcund, will naturally be considered as such now. Those who hold solely by grants, such as are issued by sovereign to subject, and have not been generally considered as sovereign princes, will apparently belong to the other class. But there appears to be an intermediate class in Bundelcund, neither sovereign nor subject, with whom we have engagements distinct from treaties or grants, and whom it may be difficult to assign precisely to either of the preceding classes. In such cases the Agent must exercise his discretion, and state his doubts, accompanied by the documents necessary for their solution.

Oorcha Succession,
1837-1842.

10. The question submitted by the Agent has originated in an application from the Raja of Oorcha. The Agent will, of course, report to what class of chiefs he considers the Raja to belong, under the foregoing definitions. The impression at present in my mind is, that he is a sovereign prince, and, being a Hiudoo, fully entitled to adopt a son and successor in the event of his having no heirs of his body; and the adoption of his brother's son seems to be an unobjectionable arrangement. The recognition, however, of this adoption will depend on the decision of the Right honourable the Governor-general, and the whole question discussed in this minute will be submitted to his Lordship on the receipt of the Agent's further report.

11. The Agent has noticed the apparent incoherence of the past decisions of our Government in acknowledging successions among the Bundelcund chiefs, and concludes that they have not been based on any fixed principle. But the principle which has generally operated on such occasions has been that of recognising the succession apparently agreeable to the prince and the people, or to the latter on the demise of the former; that is the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states.

12. I request that the substance of this minute may be communicated in a letter to the Agent in Bundelcund.

(signed) *C. T. Metcalfe.*

EXTRACT Letter from *J. Thomason*, Esq., Secretary to Government of N. W. P. Agra, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India; dated 22 June (No. 66) 1841.

Political
Department.

* From Agent in
Bundelcund, dated
28 May, with Encl-
sures.

I AM desired by the Lieutenant-governor to request that you will submit to the consideration of the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council the copies, enumerated in the margin,* of papers bearing on the question of the course to be pursued towards the Raja of Oorcha, in consequence of the part taken in the recent affair at Chirgong.

2. The circumstance of the force deputed to his aid from Oorcha having been headed by Demun Hirdu, Shah of Bigna, the father of the boy who has been adopted by the Raja, seems sufficient, even if other proof were wanting, to convict the latter personage of having directly encouraged and promoted, if not of having planned and originated, the attempt made by one so completely under his influence as the Jagurdur of Chirgong, to set the authority and the power of the British Government at defiance.

(No. 1890.)

From *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to *J. Thomason*, Esq., Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor, North-Western Provinces; dated 19 July 1841.

Sir,

THE Governor-general in Council having carefully considered the circumstances brought to his notice in your despatch of the 22d ultimo, No. 66, I am directed to communicate to you, for the information of his Honour the Lieutenant-governor, the following observations on the conduct of the Raja of Oorcha, and the course of proceeding which it may be proper for the British Agent to adopt in consequence.

2. The Agent in Bundelcund has adduced very strong grounds for believing that in the late opposition offered to his authority by the Jagheerdar of Chirgong, that petty chieftain received aid and encouragement from the Raja of Oorcha and his feudatories. Such conduct would be a direct violation of their obligations to the British Government, and might entail upon them all the consequences of open hostility to its power. There might be less difficulty in deciding upon the mode of dealing with the inferior feudatories, who have long been notorious for their refractory and insubordinate disposition; but the Raja of Oorcha is a substantive state of great antiquity, of considerable power and resources, and its chief has for nearly 30 years adhered with credit and fidelity to the terms of his alliance with the British Government.

3. Looking

3. Looking to these circumstances, the Governor-general in Council is of opinion that, as a preliminary step to any measures of severity, or any demand of an unpalatable nature, Mr. Fraser should be directed to call upon the Raja of Oorcha for an explanation of the conduct imputed to him, stating the facts which have been adduced against him.

4. His Lordship in Council remarks, that the Raja of Oorcha is very anxious to obtain the recognition by the British Government of the succession which he proposes to his territories; and if it should in the end appear just or expedient not to visit him with any more decided measure of punishment, it may yet be proper to advert to any misconduct which may be established against the Raja, in settling the amount of nuzzerana which should be paid on the occasion of the recognition.

I have, &c.

(signed) *T. H. Maddock*,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Fort William, 19 July 1841.

EXTRACT Letter from *R. N. C. Hamilton*, Esq., Officiating Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to Government of India; dated 30 October (No. 110) 1841.

1. As there is nothing in the transaction to call for immediate decision, and as it, on the contrary, is desirable that no communication involving even a chance of consequent military movements should be made until the season is further advanced, the Lieutenant-governor has considered it advisable to submit to the consideration of his Lordship in Council the accompanying copy of a report, dated 15th September and 2d October, with enclosures, received from Mr. Fraser, with a translation of the reply returned by the Raja of Oorcha, on the subject of his alleged participation in the recent hostile acts of the Jagheerdur of Chirgong.

2. It will be perceived that the Raja's reply, as anticipated by Mr. Fraser, contains more of simple denial than of explanation, and that in admitting the presence at Chirgong of the father of the boy whom he has adopted as his son, he has in fact afforded the most convincing proof of the correctness of the inference drawn by the Agent from the evidence collected on the spot.

3. But although thoroughly satisfied as to the Raja of Oorcha's share in the affairs of Chirgong, the Lieutenant-governor is, for reasons which have been already stated, disinclined to recommend that his offence should be too severely visited.

4. Had his conduct been unequivocal and unexceptionable, the Raja might have claimed this concession to his wishes, under the rule laid down in Sir Charles Metcalfe's orders of October 1837 (a copy of which is forwarded for facility of reference); but as he has, to say the least, been most remiss in his exertions to restrain those who it is unreasonable to believe would have taken an openly hostile part against us in opposition to his expressed desire, or could possibly have acted as they did without his knowledge, it appears to his Honour that the paramount power is clearly warranted in attaching whatever conditions it may deem fit to that which, under any circumstances, must be a relaxation of its own strict right of resumption on failure of direct heirs.

NOTE by Mr. *Maddock*; dated 22d November 1841.

THE despatch from Agra, dated the 30th ultimo, refers for the orders of the Supreme Government the question of the Raja of Oorcha's misconduct, in covertly aiding and abetting the chief of Chirgong in his rebellion, and the manner in which that misconduct should be noticed by the British Government.

On the misconduct of the Raja of Oorcha in the outbreak of Chirgong, and the right of the Raja to adopt an heir at his own discretion.

The Raja has, in his letter to the Agent, denied having aided or encouraged the chief of Chirgong in his late proceedings; but the Honourable Lieutenant-governor is not disposed to place any credit on his denial, and considers the fact of guilty participation sufficiently established against him; and as a mode of

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1837-1842.

punishment for the violation of his engagements, it is proposed by the Agent in Bundelcund, and approved by the Lieutenant-governor, that the Raja should be called upon to contribute one lac of rupees per annum towards the maintenance of the Bundelcund legion. On the Raja's acceding to these terms, the Lieutenant-governor would be willing to acknowledge, as heir to the Oorcha raj, the boy whom the Raja has adopted as his own.

On these points it may be necessary to remark, that if the fact of the Raja of Oorcha having assisted an enemy of the British Government in arms against its authority is proved, he has broken his treaty with that Government, and we are at liberty to call upon him to enter into any new engagement which the altered state of affairs since 1842, the date of his former treaty, and his own misconduct and that of his dependents, may now point out as essential to the better maintenance of peace and tranquillity in that part of Bundelcund.

But a question has been raised in the course of the correspondence on this subject, as to the right of the Raja of Oorcha to adopt an heir, to the prejudice of the claims of collateral branches of his family, and independent of the consent and sanction of the British Government as the paramount power. It seems to be assumed that the state of Oorcha is an independent sovereignty, and that certain rules proposed by the late Lieutenant-governor, Sir Charles Metcalfe, in his Minute of the 28th October 1837, regarding the admission of adopted heirs, would, if followed, entitle the Raja to adopt an heir without any reference to the wishes of the British Government.

It is not clear, however, that such an assumption can be admitted as correct, or that either before or since his connexion with this Government the Raja of Oorcha has regarded himself, or been regarded by others, as a sovereign prince.

A reference to past history would show that the Rajas of Oorcha held their possessions under the Kings of Delhi, as mumsuldars of the empire. In the decline of the imperial power, when the Peishwa, Bajee Row, first gained a footing in Bundelcund, the Raja of Oorcha purchased his forbearance by a cession of part of his territory, and the protection of his neighbour, the Bhow of Jhansee, subsequently saved him, as a dependent of the Peishwa, from further spoliation of his lands. But in 1812, Sindiah, having dispossessed the neighbouring Rajas of Gunesh, Rotah and Chandery, had set his mind on annexing Oorcha to his own dominions. It was then that the Raja supplicated the British Government to be admitted as one of its dependents. He pleaded, as his highest distinction, that he had been a noble of the Delhi empire, and boasted of his fidelity to the Peishwah since that prince's authority had been established in Bundelcund. He urged that he had never paid peishwah or tribute to Scindiah or Holkar, or any other Mahratta sirdar, and that his only cession to that people had been that of territory to the Peishwah; and it is true that that cession had been the price of the protection which the Peishwah's representative, the Bhow of Jhansee, afforded to Oorcha.

In the correspondence of 1812 between Government and the Agent in Bundelcund and the Resident at Sindiah's court, the Raja is not spoken of as a sovereign prince, but as the head of a petty state seeking to be admitted among the number of our dependents, and to be permitted to enter into engagements with us similar to those concluded with the other petty Boondeelah chiefs. The descendant of Chutter Saul, whose territories adjoin to those of Oorcha government, consented to admit the Raja of Oorcha to these terms, and by the treaty concluded with him he was placed on the same footing in relation to the British Government as the other chiefs of Bundelcund.

It is not, I presume, in contemplation to consider the petty Rajas of Punnah, Bijawar, Adjyghur, Charcaree or Jytepore as sovereign princes. As successors of the Peishwah, we obtained a virtual sovereignty over all of them, and their lands must be considered as held from the British Government. The only difference between their position and that of the Oorcha family is, that the latter was much older, and had been established while the power of the Emperors of Delhi was still in its vigour; but none of them were, or ever had been, independent sovereign princes. Even Chutter Saul, the creator of his own power, and the greatest of modern princes in Bundelcund, was compelled to divide his possessions with Rajee Row Peishwah, in order to secure to his family, under Mahratta protection, the portion of territories reserved from them. His descendants had been deprived by the Mahrattas and other military adventurers of the greater

part of their lands; and though it was the policy of the British Government to restore to them, or confirm to them, a considerable portion of their hereditary possessions, and to abstain from demanding from them tribute or regular military service, they all became, in effect, feudatories and dependent jageerdars, whose estates, in default of heirs, would lapse to the British Government, and they were bound to protect the frontier against invasion, and to serve with all their military force whenever called upon by Government to do so. Into these conditions the Raja of Oorcha also entered, and till lately he had the reputation of being one of the most faithful of our dependent allies in Bundelcund. He had been under the greatest obligation to this Government, which had interposed to save his estate from falling into the grasp of Sindiah, and his conduct had entitled him to its continued favour and protection. But at no time, under the superiority of the Kings of Delhi or of the Peishwah, would the Raja of Oorcha have pretended to a right to nominate an heir to his possessions without the sanction and consent of the superior power, and there is nothing in his connexion with the British Government which should alter his position in so important a point. Neither his subjects nor the neighbouring chieftains would acknowledge an adoption which had not been sanctioned by the British Government, and none of them regard him in this or in any other important matter as exempt from that dependence on the supreme authority which establishes it as paramount lord over their estates, vested peculiarly with the right of guardianship, and the direction and decisions of successions.

Under no circumstances would it be right for the British Government to forego its supremacy in this respect, and in the present instance there are additional reasons why the confirmation of the adoption which has been made by the Raja should be considered as a favour, for which, if it is to be granted, an equivalent may properly be demanded.

It will be for Government to judge whether this should be combined with the peremptory demand of a contribution to the legion, in consequence of the Raja's late misconduct; but the opportunity should not be lost of commencing with Oorcha a system, which may afterwards be extended to the other estates in the province, of altering the conditions of our alliance with the Boondelah chiefs, so as to commute their general duties of military service into contributions for the support of a force which may be adequate for the protection of all, and will secure the permanent tranquillity of the province.

By an excess of liberality, we left in possession of the chiefs of Bundelcund territories capable of producing an annual revenue of not very much less than a crore of rupees, and took upon ourselves the duty of protecting these territories, and preventing one chief from encroaching on the possessions of another. The expenses attending the discharge of this duty have fallen upon the British Government, and the protected chiefs have in return contributed little or nothing to the resources of the state. They are the most favoured and the most pampered of all its subjects or dependents, yet they had no claim which can be placed in competition with those of the Princes of Rajpootana, or the Nawaubs of Bhopal and the Chiefs of Malwa, all of whom contribute, either in money or in men, to the service of the state. We had, it is true, at the time of our first settlement of Bundelcund, an object in leaving the resources of these petty states more at their own disposal, and that was to enable them the better to present a barrier for the protection of our reserved territories from foreign invasion. But the danger to be thus provided against has long ceased to exist, and it is time that we should introduce such a system as will enable all the states to combine for the maintenance of a local disciplined force that will be adequate for the constant preservation of tranquillity, without calling in the aid of the regular army of the Government on every petty disturbance that may arise. This is the least that can be required from a class so highly favoured as the chiefs and jageerdars of Bundelcund, and the object ought to be attainable with little difficulty.

Mr. Fraser should, I presume, be instructed to explain to the Raja of Oorcha, that the late disturbances which have taken place on his frontier have convinced the Government of the necessity of maintaining a disciplined force, to be paid for by the chiefs of the province, as the legion is at present paid out of the revenues of Jhansee and Jalown; and that as the Government has reason to be highly dissatisfied with his conduct and that of his people in the late affair at Chirgong, it requires time, as a token of his repentance, and as a pledge of his future loyalty, to consent to an annual contribution of one lac of rupees, in lieu of military

Oorcha Succession,
1837-1842.

service to the state, and that on this condition only can he be restored to the favour and friendship of the British Government. It might be added, that after this affair is settled, the Government would be ready to attend favourably to his wishes regarding the adoption of an heir.

It is improbable that the Raja would offer any serious objection to this arrangement, and his military resources are too insignificant to excite any fears that he should risk the loss of his possessions by any open opposition to the British Government.

(signed) *T. H. Maddock,*

Secy to the Government of India.

MINUTE by the Governor-General.

Raja of Oorcha ;
conduct of the Raja
in the rebellion of
the Jageerdar of
Chirgong, and his
right to adopt an
heir.

I HAVE detained the papers relating to the misconduct and position of the Raja of Oorcha for some time by me, as I consider the principle involved in the discussion to be one of great importance, and as I have not thought it necessary or expedient, in the circumstances of our control, as it is now established in the Bundelkund province, to visit with extreme strictness the participation or connivance of the Raja, in the resistance which was offered to the just exercise of our authority, in the measures adopted at the commencement of the year, towards the chieftain of Chirgong.

2. It is well known that I am desirous, upon every occasion upon which such an arrangement can equitably be made, to commute the general obligation of our dependent allies to render military service into a specific stipulation, towards the support of a military contingent, disciplined and commanded by British officers ; that this object, however valuable, is not to be pursued without clearly just grounds, or much considerate regard to the condition and feelings of the chiefs who will be affected by it.

3. I cannot, for a moment, admit the doctrine, that because the view of policy upon which we may have formed engagements with native princes may have been by circumstances materially altered, we are not to act scrupulously up to the terms and spirit of those engagements.

4. I have referred to our treaty with the Raja of Oorcha, concluded on the 23d December 1812, and I find that its preamble commences in these words : "The Raja of Oorcha is one of the chiefs of Bundelkund by whom, and his ancestors, his present possessions have been held in successive generations during a long course of years, without paying tribute or acknowledging vassalage to any other power." And the treaty formed with the Raja is designated as one of "friendship and alliance ;" the territory which from ancient times has descended "to the Raja, by inheritance, and is now in his possession, being guaranteed to the said Raja, and to his heirs and successors." Upon words so distinct and positive as these, I hold it to be impossible to raise a question, and I am of opinion, therefore, that the Raja of Oorcha must be regarded as one of those sovereign rulers who, according to the very proper rule laid down in the letter of Sir Charles Metcalfe, of 28th October 1837, is entitled to make an adoption, in his own discretion, which the British Government is bound to acknowledge, "provided that such adoption be regular, and not in violation of Hindoo law."

5. Admitting the right of the Raja, for the reasons which I have stated, to adopt an heir, I am not disposed, after much reflection on the whole subject, to mix up our recognition of that right with the separate consideration of the punishment that may be due to him for unwarranted opposition to the British power.

6. On this last point I think that there is sufficient presumptive evidence of the guilt of the Raja ; but we have of late done so much towards strengthening our position and extending our direct dominion in Bundelkund, and the Raja will, in fact, have suffered so seriously by an assumption of the Chirgong territory, that I am not disposed to do more at present than to direct the Lieutenant-governor to address him in terms of severe admonition, warning him that he has justly laid himself open to the suspicion of the British Government, and that any repetition of such offence will lead to the entire annulment of the engagement
by

by which that Government is bound to his protection, and may produce the adoption of measures which will wholly alter the position in which the territory and Raja of Oorcha now stand in regard to our paramount power.

Oorcha Succession,
1837-1842.

2 January 1842.

(signed) *Auckland.*

EXTRACT Minute by the Honourable *W. W. Bird*; dated 12 January 1842.

I AGREE with the Governor-general that we ought to act scrupulously up to the terms and spirit of our engagements, and that we are not at liberty to depart from them, because the view of policy upon which they were formed may have been by circumstances materially altered. Oorcha Affairs.

Viewing, therefore, the Raja of Oorcha as a ruler whose sovereign rights have been acknowledged by treaty, the question of his right to adopt, or of our recognition of that right, ought not, I think, to be mixed up with the separate consideration of the notice which should be taken of his recent alleged opposition to the British power.

EXTRACT Minute by the Honourable *H. T. Prinsep*, Esquire.

THE Chiefs of Bundelcund stand towards our Government very nearly in the same relation as those of Rajwara, the only difference being that most of them are of much less consideration. Oorcha, however, and Reiva stand at the head respectively of the chiefs of Bundelcund and Bozilkund, and have claim, therefore, to be regarded as of the superior class of protected principalities. The Raja has no natural heir, and contemplates an adoption to supply one. I think he has a right to provide in this manner for the succession to his possessions, to the exclusion of collateral heirs, and being an old inheritance, not of recent grant, by ourselves or by the Peishwah, to whose rights we have succeeded, I should not think, failing a direct heir, that we were entitled to claim the Raja, as a lapse, to the prejudice of the right of collateral relations. The case is widely different from that of Jaloun, which was a jagheer and soobadaree of the Peishwah, to which other than the direct descendants from the first Joobader could have no just claim to succeed. Oorcha, Bundelcund.

Admitting, therefore, the Raja of Oorcha's right to adopt the same principles as have been laid down in the case of Kishengurh will hold as to the recognition of the adopted heir by our Government, I do not think we should be warranted in demanding mizzerana, or more than equivalent for the cost of the khelat, or other forms that may be desired to be observed for publishing to the world this recognition. I do not think it would be proper or becoming to commit the recognition of this adoptive heir with any measures we might deem it necessary to take in consequence of the Raja's misbehaviour, and encouragement to the Chirgong insurrection.

EXTRACT Letter from *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to *R. N. C. Hamilton*, Esq., Officiating Secretary, North-Western Provinces; dated 17 January (No. 108) 1842.

1. YOUR despatch of the 30th October last, No. 110, and the 20th ultimo, No. 124, referring for the orders of this Government the report of Mr. Fraser, with the opinion of the Honourable the Lieutenant-governor thereon, relative to the Raja of Oorcha's misconduct in covertly aiding and abetting the Chief of Chirgaon in his late rebellion, and the manner in which that misconduct should be noticed by the British Government, having been received and submitted by me for the consideration and orders of the Governor-general in Council, I have now the honour to state to you, in reply, and for the information and guidance of his Honour, the decision which an attentive perusal of all the documents bearing on the question has enabled his Lordship in Council to come to on this subject, as well as on the expediency of recognizing the right claimed by the Raja to adopt an heir to his possessions, to the exclusion of collateral branches of his family.

Oorcha Succession,
1837-1842.

4. His Lordship in Council having referred to our treaty with the Raja of Oorcha, concluded on the 23d of December 1812, finds that its preamble commences in these words:—"The Raja of Oorcha, one of the Chiefs of Bundelcund, by whom and his ancestors his present possessions have been held in successive generations during a long course of years without paying tribute, or acknowledging vassalage to any other power," and the treaty formed with the Raja is designated as one of "friendship and alliance," "the territory which from ancient times has descended to the Raja by inheritance, and is now in his possession, being guaranteed to the said Raja and his heirs and successors." Upon words so distinct and positive as these, his Lordship in Council holds it to be impossible to raise a question, and he is of opinion, therefore, that the Raja of Oorcha must be regarded as one of those sovereign rulers who, according to the very proper rule laid down in the letter of Sir Charles Metcalfe of October 28th, 1837, is entitled "to make an adoption on his own discretion, which the British Government is bound to acknowledge, provided that such adoption be regular, and not in violation of Hindoo law."

5. Admitting the right of the Raja, for the reasons which are here stated, to adopt an heir, his Lordship in Council is not disposed, after much reflection on the whole subject, to mix up our recognition of that right with the separate consideration of the punishment that may be due to him for unwarranted opposition to the British power.

EXTRACT from Proceedings of the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, in Political Department, under date 7 April 1842,

EXTRACT Letter from Agent, Lieutenant-Governor, Bundelkund, to *R. N. C. Hamilton, Esq.*, Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces; dated 24 March (No. 62) 1842.

The present Raja
is brother of the late
Raja.
* Raja Dhurrapnell.

5. As there are two parties in Oorcha, one, at present the principal one, supporting the Raja's nomination, and the other declaring the Raja to have obtained the Raj fraudulently, and therefore supporting the right of the widow of the son* of the late Raja to nominate a successor, there would appear to be especial reason for caution in taking any steps in the matter.

No. 63. From Agent, Lieutenant-Governor, Bundelkund, to *R. N. C. Hamilton, Esq.*, Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, Agra: dated 30 March 1842.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith, for the consideration and orders of the Honourable the Lieutenant-governor, copy of translation of a letter from the Raja of Oorcha, soliciting the sanction of Government to the succession of Myhindeer Soojun Sing, as his adopted son.

2. The early arrival of this letter will not be expected by his Honour, but the Raja has lately been in infirm health, and an unexpected attack of low fever, which he has been unable to shake off, has excited much anxiety amongst the followers and dependents of the Raj.

3. I was at Indoru on Saturday and Sunday, and although I had previously heard of the Raja's indisposition, and consequently had requested that no attempt might be made, on his part, to go through the exertion of the Ishkhal, I was agreeably surprised in the evening, on paying a visit to him, to find him in a much better state of health, and when I left Indoru on Monday morning, the reports of his followers were highly favourable; but I have since learned that he has experienced an accession of fever, and from the earnestness of the vakeel in regard to the letter now forwarded, I am led to believe that there is reason to expect an unfavourable termination of the Raja's illness.

4. I have

4. I have written no reply to the letter herein enclosed, but have led the vakeel to understand that Government has no wish to interfere in the matter of succession. I have reason to know there is a party opposed to the adopted son's succession, but, pending the receipt of orders from Government, I shall abstain from all expression of support to any party, and beg to suggest that, for the present, Government allow matters to take their natural course, and that the recognition of the claims of the boy be held in abeyance until it be ascertained whether he is acceptable to the influential members of the principality.

Oorcha Succession,
1837-1842.

I have, &c.

(signed) *S. Fraser*,
Agent, Lieutenant-governor.

Bundelcund Agency Office, Camp Kuchnew,
30 March 1842.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from the Raja of Oorcha to the Agent to the Lieutenant-Governor, Bundelcund; dated 15 Suffer 1258, Hijree, corresponding with 23 March 1842; dated 30 March 1842.

No. 64.

SOME time since, in consideration of my advanced age, I adopted as my heir, the delight of my eyes, Maharaja Myhinder Soojun Sing Behadoor, and communicated the circumstance to you, and through you it became known to the British Government. The day before yesterday, on the occasion of our meeting, I entered into a detail of particulars connected with my wishes on the subject, and took the opportunity of presenting the boy to you. You, with great kindness and consideration, took his hand in yours, and the act to me was one which calls for my warmest thanks. In accordance with the rules necessary to be observed, and confiding in your goodness and friendship, and taking advantage of this day, as being favourable to my wishes; I have, in strict conformity to the rules of my religion and the customs and observances of this part of the country, placed the boy upon the guddee of this state, and have resigned into his hands the entire rule and authority of my principality. The prosperity of this state has all along depended upon the British Government. I, therefore, relying upon your kindness and friendship, beg your intercession with the paramount authority to obtain for my adopted son a khillut of recognition, for which my unbounded thanks will be due, and in like manner as I have invariably manifested fidelity and attachment to the British Government will this boy deport himself.

(True translation.)

(signed) *S. Fraser*,
Agent, Lieutenant-Governor, N. W. P.

(No. 7.)

EXTRACT Letter from Agent, Lieutenant-Governor, Bundelcund, to *R. N. C. Hamilton*, Esq., Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, Agra; dated 7 April 1842.

No. 65.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for the information and orders of the Honourable the Lieutenant-governor, copy of translation of a letter I have just received, communicating the demise, on Wednesday, the 30th ultimo, of Maharaja Mahindur Tej Sing Bahadoor, the Raja of Oorcha.

2. The letter purports to be written by Soojan Sing, the late Raja's adopted son, and the Oorcha Mookhtar, on presenting it, requested me to write, in answer, a letter of condolence to the young boy; but as I could not do this satisfactorily to the parties interested, without addressing him by the usual titles of the head of the family, and thus anticipating the decision of Government, I informed the Mookhtar that the reply would be deferred until Government, after a review of

Oorcha Succession,
1837-1842.

all the circumstances of the boy's claim, should communicate further instructions to me. At the same time, I gave him distinctly to understand that the British Government had no wish to interfere actively in the matter, and that the eventual orders would probably be much influenced by the feelings and support displayed towards the boy by the leading persons of the Raj.

(No. 8.)

No. 66.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from *Soojun Sing*, of Oorcha, adopted Son of Maharaja *Tej Sing*, deceased, to the Agent to the Lieutenant-Governor in Bundelcund.

(Received 1 April 1842.)

YESTERDAY (Wednesday), the 17th of the month, my father, Maharaja Mohundar Tij Sing Bahadoor, was removed by the Deity from this transitory world, to the great distress of all the dependents of this family; and my only comfort and confidence under this calamity proceed from the assurances of protection and support which, in the presence of the late Raja, you kindly expressed. I have, therefore, thought it right to communicate to you the above melancholy event, and I pray to God that you may long be spared to be to me a kind friend and protector in the place of my late parent; as my interests will thereby be greatly promoted, I trust that, viewing this occurrence as proceeding from the Deity, you will not allow yourself to be overcome with grief on the occasion. Further particulars will be communicated to you by my mookhtar.

(True translation.)

(signed) *S. Fraser*,
Agent to Lieutenant-governor.

No. 9.

(No. 42, of 1842.)

No. 67.

From Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, to Agent to Lieutenant-Governor, Bundelcund; dated Agra, 7 April 1842.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Honourable the Lieutenant-governor to acknowledge the receipt of your several despatches, marginally noted, and, in reply, to convey to you the following instructions.

2. By your despatch of the 1st instant, the melancholy intelligence of the demise of the Raja of Oorcha, Raja Mohundar Tej Sing Bahadoor, is communicated.

3. Intimation of this event was made to you by a letter from Koonur Soojun Sing, the adopted son, and delivered to you by Mabul, who requested that the usual letter of condolence should be addressed by you to Soojun Sing.

4. Your reply to the vakeel appears to the Lieutenant-governor to evince a doubt, on your part, as to the ready recognition of Soojun Sing's title by the leading persons in the Raj, rather than any uncertainty as to the views of your Government.

5. The Honourable the Lieutenant-governor has therefore been led to review the whole correspondence which has passed relative to the adoption of a successor to the Oorcha Raj.

6. The records of Government show that, on the 7th June 1837, you transmitted the translation of a letter from the Raja of Oorcha (the deceased Raja, Mohundar Taj Sing) to the Lieutenant-governor of Agra, announcing the adoption of his brother's son, Koonur Soojun Sing (the youth now alluded to), according to the rites required by the Shastree, and referring to previous announcement of the act,

in

30 March, with
Enclosure.
1 April, with
Enclosure.

in a letter dated 11 Shewul 1252, to the Agent, and soliciting that the Lieutenant-Governor would authorize that a khelut of recognition should be conferred.

Oorcha Succession,
1837-1825.

7. On the 7th October you submitted a further report on the general question of succession to chiefships in Bundelcund, which led to my letter of the 28th of that month, conveying the views of the Lieutenant-governor, Sir Charles Metcalfe, on the subject.

8. The views laid down in this despatch are referred to in para. 4 of Mr. Secretary Maddock's letter of the 17th January last, communicating the decision of the Right honourable the Governor-general of India in Council on the right of the Raja of Oorcha to adopt a successor, in the exercise of which the Supreme Government distinctly say it is impossible to raise a question.

9. The right to adopt having thus been formally acknowledged, it only remains to inquire whether that right has been properly exercised, or, in other words, whether the adoption of Sujjao Sing is regular, and not in violation of Hindoo law.

10. It has already been shown that the act of adoption was made known to the Agent so far back as 11 Shewal 1252, or A. D. 1837, January 19; that this act was reported by the Agent to Government, and that up to the period of the demise of the Raja Mohindar Sing, by the (boy) Soojun Sing, continued interruptedly to reside,* and to be brought up in the deceased Raja's family; that on the occasion of your last visiting the Raja, when his approaching dissolution was not apprehended, the Raja himself presented Surjun Sing to you, and solicited for him your protection and support.

* Orig.

11. On referring to the enclosure of your letter, dated 30th ultimo, (in letter from the deceased Raja to your address, dated 28th March), it appears that the deceased Raja formally installed Kajur Sing on the guddee, and virtually abdicated in his favour.

12. On the authenticity of this last letter, or of the act detailed, you do not cast any doubt, but you recommend that for the present Government allow matters to take their natural course, and that the recognition of the claims of the boy be held in abeyance until it be ascertained whether he is acceptable to the influential members of the principality.

13. In para. 5 of your letter of 24th March, you state there are two parties in Oorcha, one at present the principal one, supporting the Raja's nomination, and the other declaring the Raja to have obtained the raj fraudulently, and therefore supporting the right of the widow of the son of the late Raja to nominate a successor.

14. The Lieutenant-governor desires me to remind you that no question can be allowed to be agitated which may throw a doubt upon that which the British Government has distinctly recognized. The late Raja, Muhindur Tej Sing, must be considered to have been the legitimate and recognized sovereign; no discussion on this point can therefore be permitted, and as no objections have been raised to the adoption made by him, and which has been known to the chiefs for a period of four years, the Lieutenant-governor has no hesitation in declaring it as his opinion, that unless there be objections of more cogency than you seem to anticipate, it will be impolitic to postpone doing whatever may be necessary to give stability to the raj, and put an end to all speculation in the course which the British Government, as the paramount power, is desirous to pursue.

I have, &c.

Agra, 7 April 1842.

(signed) R. N. C. Hamilton,
Secy to Gov^t N. W. P.

Oorcha Succession,
1837-1842.

EXTRACT from Proceedings of the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor, North-Western Provinces, Political Department, under date 16 April 1842

No. 121. EXTRACT Letter from Agent to Lieutenant-Governor, Bundelcund, to Sir R. C. Hamilton, Esq., Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces; dated Jhansi, 11 April (No. 5) 1842.

No. 42 of 1842. I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, communicating the views and sentiments of the honourable the Lieutenant-governor on the question of the Oorcha succession, and, in reply, to submit herewith the draft of a letter addressed by me to the adopted son of the late Raja, in accordance with his Honour's instructions, which I trust will meet his Honour's approbation.

(No. 14.)

No. 122. TRANSLATION of a Letter addressed by the Agent to the Lieutenant-Governor, North-Western Provinces, in Bundelcund, to Maharaja Mehunder Soojum Sing, Behadoor; dated 11 April 1842.

My friend,

I HAVE received your letter of 18 Suffur (Chythuddie 5, 1898), communicating the melancholy intelligence of the death of your late father Maharaja Mehundur Tej Sing Behadoor. This occurrence has been to me the source of much regret, especially as I had entertained sanguine expectations, when I last saw him, that he would recover from his illness. I can only recommend to you, under these painful circumstances, a quiet submission to the decrees of Providence.

I duly communicated the wishes of the late Maharaja to the Honourable the Lieutenant-governor, and I yesterday received instructions, intimating that his Honour, after giving the question full consideration, recognizes you as the chief of the Oorcha principality. It gives me much pleasure to be the medium of communicating to you this agreeable intelligence, and I trust that you may long live to enjoy the honours devolving on you. You will, doubtless, see the propriety of giving every attention to the advice and instruction of the British Government; they will at all times, rest assured, be consistent with your best interests, and tend to promote the prosperity of your raj; and it should be your especial endeavour, by every means, to strengthen the existing bonds of union between the two states, and by an uniformly steady and impartial administration to secure the good-will and confidence of your people.

(True translation.)

(signed) S. Fraser,
Agent to Lieutenant-governor.

(No. 15.)

No. 123. EXTRACT Letter from Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, Agra, to S. Fraser, Esq., Agent to Lieutenant-Governor, Bundelcund; dated 16 April (No. 49) 1842.

YOUR despatch of the 11th instant, giving cover to a translation of the letter addressed by you to the adopted son of the late Raja of Oorcha, having been perused by the Lieutenant-governor, I am directed to inform you that your communication to the young chief appears to be in perfect accordance with the view of the Supreme Government as to his succession, and is accordingly approved of.

Kotah Succession, 1825, 1826.

Kotah Succession,
1825, 1826.

EXTRACT Political Letter from Bengal, dated 27 July 1826.

45. IN a despatch, recorded as per margin, the political agent in Harowtee reported the death of the only son of the Maha Rao, of Kotah, and the wish of that prince to adopt Ram Singh as his son and heir to the throne, in the event of his dying without natural issue. This Ram Singh is the son of Prithe Singh, second brother of the Maha Rao, who fell in the action of 1821, fighting against the Raj Rana and the British troops, and it seems had been generally considered as excluded by this circumstance from all prospect of the succession. There is an elder brother living, named Bishen Singh, who is the presumptive heir of the Raj, and who was removed from Kotah subsequent to the disturbances. For the opinions of the Resident and our instructions, in reply, we must beg leave to refer to our proceedings as per margin, especially as the question has not yet been finally disposed of, and will be again noticed hereafter.

1825, Political
Department,
Cons., 14 Oct.,
Nos. 8 & 10.1825, Political
Department,
Cons. 2 December,
Nos. 9 & 10.
Cons. 16 December,
No. 16.

EXTRACT Political Letter from Bengal; dated 3 July 1828.

140. IN paragraph 45 of our general letter, dated 27th July 1826, we noticed the wish expressed by the Maha Rao, of Kotah, to adopt his nephew, Koonwar Ram Singh, as his son and heir to the principality, in the event of his dying without male issue. Your honourable Court will find a further correspondence on that subject recorded on our consultations of the annexed dates. After carefully considering the information contained in those papers, the Governor-general came to the following conclusion on the question of the arrangements which Rao Kishore Singh was desirous of adopting regarding the Kotah succession.

Harowtee.
1826, Political
Department,
Cons., 8 Sept.,
No. 7.
Cons., 20 Oct.
No. 29.
Cons., 17 Nov
No. 10.

141. It was certain his Lordship observed that the Maha Rao had not, up to that date, adopted, at least according to any legal and binding form, his nephew Koonwar Ram Singh, and that the brother, Bishen Singh, was, under actual circumstances, the heir presumptive to the Raj. The ruler of Kotah must be considered to possess the right, in common with all other Hindoos, of making an adoption in conformity with the rules of the Shaster, unless precedent and state usage could be pleaded to bar the exercise of the right in his particular case. His Lordship did not consider any objection to exist, arising out of the former conduct of Maharaja Prithee Singh, against the selection of his son, Ram Singh, as the individual to be adopted by the Maha Rao; at the same time his Lordship felt satisfied, that we were not called upon to indulge the Maha Rao's preference of his nephew to the prejudice of the heir in the direct line, supposing that procedure should prove to be in opposition to any established and generally recognized principle of the Hindoo law of affiliation. It remained, therefore, to be determined whether, with reference to the age of Ram Singh, his adoption could legally take place, and on this point his Lordship requested the sentiments of the Resident, after consulting the best legal authority in Central India.

142. Other points to be settled, the Governor-general added, were, whether, supposing Ram Singh not to have exceeded the age fixed by law, his adoption would be valid, under the reservation which the Maha Rao proposed to make in contemplation of the eventual birth of a natural heir, and also what would be the rights of a son born under such circumstances, according both to the Shasters and to local usage and state precedent.

143. In the meantime, his Lordship requested that the Maha Rao of Kotah might be informed that the Governor-general's silence on the subject of his khurreeta, notifying the intention to make an adoption, did not arise from indifference to the subject, or from any deficiency of friendly feeling and becoming consideration; but before committing himself by the expression of any decided opinion in so important an affair, his Lordship desired that certain inquiries should be instituted to ascertain how far the fulfilment of the Maha Rao's plan

Kotah Succession,
1825, 1826.

of providing for the succession would consist with those rules and principles of law which are binding alike upon all Hindoos, whether prince or peasant, and which must mainly guide the decision of the British authorities when called upon to pronounce on a question of the above nature.

145. In replying to the foregoing instructions, the Resident stated his opinion that the Maha Rao had a right to adopt his nephew, and that as a son, if born, would be the acknowledged legitimate successor, there was no objection to the measure. He, at the same time, forwarded a letter from Mr. E. Gordon, who had been deputed to officiate at Kotah during the temporary absence of Major Caulfield, containing a discussion both of the law of the case and the expediency of granting or refusing the Prince's request, supposing there was no legal impediment to the adoption of his nephew.

146. Having selected a punchayet of pundits from among men whose bias was supposed to run in favour of different parties in this state, Mr. Gordon obtained the following unanimous answers to the queries submitted to them; viz.

1847, Political
Department,
Cons., 2 Feb.,
No. 9.

1st. A prince who may not have any legitimate heir can adopt his nephew, the son of his deceased brother, to the exclusion of the title of a brother senior to the deceased.

2d. The right of a prince without sons to adopt a successor is undoubted, and the age of a person whom he proposes to adopt does not in the slightest degree affect his adoption.

3d. Should a son be born to the prince subsequently to the adoption of a nephew, the right of the latter to the guddee or throne ceases, but he is entitled to a suitable provision from the state.

147. The question of legality being thus set at rest, Mr. Gordon stated, with respect to that of expediency, that he could not discover any circumstances in the state of parties at Kotah which should render it desirable for the British Government to depart from strict law in its decision on the case, and he recommended, therefore, that the Governor-general should grant the Maha Rao's request.

148. We shall only add further on this subject, that the adoption of Koonwar Ram Singh has since taken place, with the sanction and concurrence of the British Government.

EXTRACT Political Letter from Bengal; dated 10 April 1829.

95. In paragraph 148 of our letter of the 3d July last, we informed your honourable Court that we had recognized the adoption of Koonwar Ram Singh by the Maha Rao of Kotah, and his consequent provisional appointment to succeed to the throne of that principality. The correspondence reporting the final completion of the above arrangement is recorded as per margin.

1828, Cons., 4 Jan.,
Nos. 16, 17.

EXTRACT Political Letter from Bengal; dated 3 October 1829.

139. THE despatches entered on our proceedings of the annexed date will apprise your honourable Court of the severe illness and death of Maha Rao Kishore Singh, the titular ruler of Kotah, and the succession of his nephew and adopted son, Maha Rao Ram Singh.

Cons., 18 July.
Nos. 7, 8, 9.
8 Aug.,
Nos. 19 & 23.
13 Sept.,
Nos. 25 & 33.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations; 14 October 1825.

(No. 8.)

LETTER from the Political Agent in Harowtee to Mr. Secretary Swinton; dated 27 August 1825.

Sir,

IN continuation of my letter of the thirteenth (13th) instant, reporting the demise of the Maharaja Koonwar, the son and heir of the Maha Rao Kishore Singh, I have the honour to forward a copy and translation of a paper received from the Maha Rao during a private visit which I paid him at his special invitation.

The

Kotah Succession,
1825, 1826.

The purport of this document appears to be a desire to secure the succession of his nephew, Maharaja Ram Singh, to the gadee of Kotah, in event of his leaving no male issue. Being totally unprepared for such a proposal, I informed the Maha Rao that it was utterly impossible for me to enter into any discussion upon the subject of the solicitation, ignorant as I then was of the usages of Rajawarra and the laws of inheritance in such cases; moreover, that the peculiar situation in which the Maharaja Ram Singh was placed, being the son of an individual who had fallen in action against the established government of the state, rendered circumspection upon my part indispensably necessary; that, thus situated, I felt constrained to decline for the present any conversation upon a subject of such serious importance, and so intimately connected with the present and future tranquillity of this principality and the surrounding states. I then made a move to retire, upon which the Maha Rao immediately remarked, that in failure of his own issue, the gadee was Ram Singh's by right of inheritance; that it was quite impossible we could contemplate the succession of his brother, Bishen Singh, whom we had at his request expelled from Kotah. He concluded by averring that, previous to his return from Nodthwarra, after the affair of Mangrole, he had explicitly avowed to Captain Todd his intention of adopting his nephew, Ram Singh, that he might succeed to the gadee in event of his having no male issue. I contented myself by remarking, that any discussion of the question just now would be premature, and alluded to the probability of his being blessed with an heir, as reports induced me to believe that he was not without hopes of an addition to his family. That with such expectations, it was manifestly impolitic to agitate a question calculated to disturb the existing harmony, and that I hoped he would, upon reflection, feel convinced that I advised for his adoption that course which was most consonant to the interests of all, and concluded by assuring him that I would not fail to inform myself upon the subject of his desires. Having got rid of the question for the time, and observing the Maha Rao's spirits much oppressed, I prolonged my visit; and before we parted, I induced him to change his turban, which was white, and symbolical of a mind withdrawn from felicity, for a red one, which is typical of a disposition to share in the active concerns and pleasures of life. He appeared to feel gratified by my sympathy, and grateful for my having persuaded him to lay aside the emblem of woe and despondence; and we parted with mutual compliments and assurances of friendship.

Upon referring to the records of this office for the purpose of ascertaining whether any thing had been finally settled relative to the future fate of the Maharaja Ram Singh, I find that my predecessor has left that question entirely unprovided for, and even unalluded to, except in a very cursory manner, in the 19th paragraph of his letter to your address, under date the 8th October 1821, wherein he expressed himself as follows:

“It appears impossible to admit the son of Prithee Singh, and adopted by the Maha Rao, to claim the succession; this was specified by the Raj: to revenge a father's death is the primary duty of a Rajpoot, and most sacred of obligations.” The above sentiment being entertained upon the 8th October, it was natural to expect it would have operated upon the mind of both the late Raj Rana and Captain Todd, so far as to have induced them to make some provision against an occurrence which they evidently contemplated as an evil of considerable magnitude. Such a provision, however, is nowhere to be found, as the only notice taken of Prithee Singh's son by Captain Todd, in his letters of the 29th November 1821, and 5th February 1822, detailing the arrangements, is alluding to the Maharaja Ram Singh, in the 17th paragraph of his despatch, 5th February, “A stupid boy, and excites no interest or fear.” Here we have a singular contradiction of the opinion expressed in his letter of the 8th October, which I have already quoted.

The strange and unaccountable omission of not having provided for this contingency may create infinite trouble, as the law of inheritance is decidedly in favour of Ram Singh, who is by adoption heir to the gadee, and we are bound by treaty to guarantee his succession.

Should Ram Singh not have been actually adopted, and the Maha Rao have merely expressed his intention to adopt him, which I suspect to be the case, it will be for the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council to decide as to the course to be adopted; the decision of which question would appear to involve civil and political rights of the most serious importance to every state in India.

Kotah Succession.
1825, 1826.

By Hindoo law, every man possessing real or personal property has a right to adopt a child, and such child becomes his legitimate heir, to the exclusion of his nearest kin: so that in either case the question is one of great delicacy, for should the ceremony of adoption not have actually taken place, the Maha Rao may fairly reply to any remonstrance against his adopting Ram Singh, that he made his intention of adopting him known to Captain Todd previous to his leaving Nadthwarra, and antecedent to the drawing up of articles by that officer, for the avowed purpose of circumscribing his authority.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Caulfield,*
Pol. Agent in Harowtee.

(No. 9.)

TRANSLATION of a Paper received from the *Maha Rao Kishore Singh*.
of Kotah.

I SENT you a message by Nathoo Ram, to which you returned for answer, that when we met and you became acquainted with my desires, you would then make arrangements for their settlement. My desires are as follows:—The minister may continue with all my heart to perform the functions of his office. I have no object to induce interference, and contrary to your pleasure I shall not interfere. Rely upon this being the honest feelings of my heart.

The British Government has by treaty arranged every thing relative to my gadee and private establishment, and it is upon this subject I am anxious to acquaint you, first, by the blessing of Providence, and the favour of the Company, I shall have offspring; but should it please God to ordain it otherwise, you are my friend; and if during my residence here, and my lifetime, the succession to my gadee would be secured, it would be a great blessing; this you must certainly arrange. The settlement must be in writing, as follows:—

1st. If I should have offspring, and such offspring live, there will be a lawful possessor of the gadee, and Ram Singh, &c. will perform his service. This has been provided for.

2d. Should it please God to ordain it otherwise, I, to guard against it, at Sereejedwar, before coming to Kotah, informed Captain Todd that I had adopted Ram Singh. There is no difference between a son and nephew. Having arranged this I came here. Should I have no children, I shall certainly adopt Ram Singh. It will therefore be necessary that he be acknowledged to be my heir. You must, during my residence here, have this effected. This is my private affair, and I therefore make you acquainted with it, that you may make a permanent and secure arrangement.

3d. The Company, after convicting two individuals of my state of folly, expel them from the country; one, the Raja Ranee's son, Ghoordhum Doss; the other, my brother, Bishen Singh; consequently, Bishen Singh can have no claims to Kotah on my gadee.

Agreeably to the above, you must secure an engagement from Government in this age. Besides yourself, I have no friend, which is my reason for making this matter known to you; you and I alone are aware of it; at present there is no occasion for making it known to a third person; when you arrange every thing and it becomes public, then your friendship will be known to every body.

(A true translation.)

(signed) *J. Caulfield,*
Political Agent at Harowtee.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations; 6 December 1825.

(No. 9.)

LETTER from Resident at Delhi to Mr. Secretary Swinton; dated 6 November 1826.

Sir,

THE agent in Harowtee has transmitted to me a copy of his letter to your address of the 27th August, relating to the desire of the Maha Rao, of Kotah, to adopt his nephew, Ram Singh, the son of the late Prithee Singh, as his successor in the principality, in the event of his own demise without male issue.

2. It becomes, in consequence, my duty to submit my sentiments on that subject for the consideration and orders of the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council.

3. If, as I suppose to be the case, the Maha Rao has the right of adopting a son and successor, and if, which I conceive to be more doubtful, that adoption can be set aside by the subsequent birth of a male heir, I conceive that we are bound by due consideration and justice not to oppose the Maha Rao's desire on a point so interesting to him, and that policy is equally in favour of allowing the latter to take its own course.

4. By opposition we shall disgust the Maha Rao, and make a certain enemy of Ram Singh, who will become the head of a faction, ready to take part against us on all possible occasions, and to excite disturbance on every opportunity. Whenever we interfere for or against the personal interests of individuals in any foreign state; whenever we uphold one as a supposed friend, or persecute another as an actual or anticipated enemy to our interests, we become in that state, and draw upon ourselves the hatred and hostile feeling of all whom we either directly oppose or indirectly injure by our patronage of another. Every petty intrigue, then, seems to affect us, and our interference becomes incessant. This is a state of things to which we ought not voluntarily to bring ourselves, without a clear necessity in support of some indisputable right or indispensable obligation.

Sic. orig.

5. A further reason for allowing the adoption to be effected in due form is that a pretended adoption has already been alleged, and may become the cause of dispute hereafter. The late agent at Kotah, Captain Todd, calls Ram Singh "adopted by the Maha Rao." This is as far back as October 1821. The present agent says, "Ram Singh, who is by adoption heir to the guddee;" and goes on to observe, "Should Ram Singh not have been actually adopted, his intention is to adopt him, which I suspect to be the case, as if it were still a matter of doubt." It is a doubt which is very likely to become the cause of future disturbance, and ought, therefore, to be put to rest one way or the other. The plea on which Doorjun Saul pretends to justify his present usurpation at Bhurtpore is the mere intention of Rajah Bundheer Singh to adopt him, which there is reason to believe did exist. The only colour which he can give to his unlawful conduct is derived from that source, and all our present expense and trouble, and whatever is to ensue, may be ascribed, perhaps, in great measure to the expectations in which Doorjun Saul was brought up, which were never fulfilled; whereas his actual adoption would have settled the question of right in his favour.

6. In admitting the adoption of Ram Singh, it would be necessary, however, to guard against the creation of dispute by that circumstance itself. If the subsequent birth of a male heir would clearly set aside the right of the adopted son to the succession, the measure would be unobjectionable as to that event. But if the son of adoption has rights superior to those of any subsequent male issue, as I imagine must be in many cases of Hindoo adoption, then this adoption might lead to future disturbance. This point ought to be settled, and the Maha Rao should be informed that the adoption once completed in due form, we should afterwards support the right on whichever side it might be, even if it were in favour of the son of adoption against subsequent male issue. This intimation, if the right be with the son of adoption, might, and probably would, alter the Maha Rao's inclination on the subject.

7. With reference to the apprehensions which are entertained of the evil consequences of Ram Singh's succession from his being the son of the late Prithee Singh, I do not think that we ought to be led by such apprehensions to oppose the right of adoption, which appertains, as I suppose, indisputably to the Maha

Kotah Succession,
1825, 1826.

Rao; I trust that such consequences are far from certain; and am inclined to imagine that they may be more probable from Ram Singh's exclusion, and consequent disputes, than from his acknowledged succession; but even if, in this case, they should occur, our power, I conceive, will be more justly exercised in rectifying wrong at the time than it would be now in opposing a lawful right.

8. I have treated the subject hitherto as relating to adoption, on which I am an advocate for allowing the exercise of an undoubted right, whatever may be the consequences; but Captain Caulfield's despatch, above noticed, admits of another view of the question.

9. From that, it seems not improbable that the Maha Rao, leaving the matter of adoption on its present doubtful and incomplete footing, wishes merely to have Ram Singh declared his conditional successor, in the event of his own demise without male issue. This is a very different thing from the right of adoption. The Maha Rao may have, and I suppose has, a right to adopt a son, taking on himself the consequences of adoption according to Hindoo law. But he can have no right to nominate a successor without the regular forms of adoption, to the exclusion, perhaps, of the rights of others, and that successor conditional to be set aside, after being acknowledged on the subsequent birth of male issue. Unless, therefore, the Maha Rao will perform the regular ceremonies of adoption, thereby making Ram Singh his son, according to Hindoo law, and abiding by the legal consequences of the act, I do not think that it is either requisite or advisable or just to sanction the irregular nomination of a conditional successor.

10. It is not improbable that Ram Singh is already legally heir presumptive to the principality, as the son of the Maha Rao's next brother deceased. If so, nothing more is requisite than to acknowledge him as such, and to assure the Maha Rao that he will succeed as a matter of course in the event of his own demise without male issue. It is presumed in this sentiment that Ram Singh is the son of the Maha Rao's eldest brother; and in this question is involved the further one of the relative rights of a nephew of the elder branch, and a surviving brother of a younger branch, which must be settled according to Hindoo law or the established customs of Rajwarra.

I have, &c.

(signed) C. T. Metcalfe,
Resident.

Delhi Residency, 6 November 1825.

LETTER from Resident at Delhi to Mr. Secretary Swinton; dated
17 November 1825.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th October, relating to the wish of the Maha Rao, of Kotah, to nominate a conditional successor.

2. You will have perceived from a recent report, that I have anticipated the orders of the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council with regard to the submission of my opinion on the subject. I have also called on Major Caulfield for information on some of the points noticed in the 3d para. of your letter, of which I shall now furnish him with a copy, for his information and guidance.

I have, &c.

(signed) C. T. Metcalfe,
Resident.

Delhi Residency, 17 November 1825.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations; 16 December 1825.

(No. 16.)

LETTER from Resident at Delhi to Mr. Secretary Swinton; dated
28 November 1825.

Sir,

It appears by a letter from the agent in Harowtee, that Bishen Singh is the presumptive heir of the Kotah principality, and that Prittee Singh was the youngest

youngest son of Maha Rao Amed Singh. Consequently adoption is necessary to establish the succession of Ram Singh, if, as I suppose, Bishen Singh's exclusion from his eventual rights has not been pre-determined.

Kotah Succession,
1825, 1826.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. T. Metcalfe*,
Resident.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations; 8 September 1826.

(No. 7.)

LETTER from Resident at Dehlie to Secretary to Government, Political Department; dated 14 August 1826.

I HAVE the honour to transmit duplicate copies of the despatches, Nos. 494 and 503, from the political agent in Harowtee, required in your letter of the 27th ultimo.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. T. Metcalfe*,
Resident.

Delhi Residency, 14 August 1826.

(No. 494.)

LETTER from Political Agent in Harowtee to Resident at Dehlie; dated 20 January 1826.

Sir,

IN reply to your letter of the 12th instant, I have the honour to inform you that the best information I have been able to procure upon the subject of succession tends clearly to establish the right of Maharaja Bishen Singh to the guddee in the event of the present Maha Rao's leaving no male issue, and the right of Maharaja Ram Singh (the son of the late Maharaja Prithee Singh) to succeed Bishen Singh rests upon similar grounds; and from a recent conversation which I have had with the Raje Rana upon the subject, it would appear that he never contemplated setting Ram Singh aside, in the event of Bishen Singh having no family; neither did he appear at all disposed to admit that the late Raje Rana could have entertained a notion so distinctly at variance with his honour and duty.

2. In conclusion, I beg to state, that the Maha Rao's Rannee has been confined of a daughter, and that his brother, Bishen Singh, has hopes of an addition to his family.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Caulfield*,
Political Agent in Harowtee.

Kotah, 20 January 1826.

(No. 503.)

LETTER from Political Agent at Harowtee to Resident at Delhi; dated 11 February 1826.

WITH reference to your letter of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to acquaint you that my inquiries as to the right of setting aside the presumptive heir by the adoption of a child lead me to lean to the opinion that the exclusion of the heir presumptive may be effected without violating the customs of Rajewarra, or the state of Kotah, by recourse to affiliation. Custom, however, in Rajewarra would appear to be but a vague and equivocal guide, undefined in its nature, and liable to be brought forward to sanction practices contrary to law, and justifiable solely (if it is a justification) by the power to usurp and maintain that to which there is no legal claim. The history of Rajewarra is full of such precedents. The guddees of Oodeypore, Joudpoor, Jeypoor and Kotah, have been occupied by those who established and retained their sway by the sword; and I believe the present princes of those states to be junior branches of their respective families, who could only bring forward the prowess or intrigues of their ancestors, if proof of their right of occupation were to be demanded.

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1825, 1826.

2. In conclusion, I beg leave to state that the last time the Maha Rao spoke to me upon the subject of his adopting Ram Singh. I asked him if his doing so was not against law and custom as applied to law: he replied, it was contrary to law, but was authorized by custom.*

3. If it should appear to your apprehension that law and custom is in a state of collision, as relating to succession in Rajewarra, and are so confounded and intermingled as to form a labyrinth perplexing and vexatious, affording no precedent in one case, that in another instance they do not violate and contradict, you will, peradventure, be disposed to pardon my suggesting the advantage that would accrue to the peace and tranquillity of the Kotah state by his Lordship in Council declining to countenance the exclusion of the heir upon any plea that does not derive confirmation from the Dhurm Shaster, which is the credenda of the Hindoos upon all questions connected with inheritance.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Caulfield,*
Political Agent in Harowtee.

Kotah, 11 February 1826.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations; 20 October 1826.

(No. 29.)

LETTER from Resident at Delhi to *G. Swinton, Esq.*, Secretary to Government, in the Political Department.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to submit a copy of a despatch from the political agent in Harowtee, under the 28th instant.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. T. Metcalfe,*
Resident.

Delhi Residency, 29 September.

(No. 521.)

To Sir *C. T. Metcalfe, Bart.*, Resident, &c., Delhi.

Sir,

Political Agent's Office, Harowtee.

HEREWITH I have the honour to enclose khureetas to the address of the Right honourable the Governor-general and yourself, together with an original note to my address from Maha Rao, with translation of the same. As I have so fully expressed my opinion upon the subject of the note in my former despatches, it does not appear necessary that I should trouble his Lordship in Council with a repetition of my sentiments.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Caulfield,*
Political Agent in Harowtee.

Kotah, 20 September 1826.

TRANSLATION of a Letter written by the Maha Rao *Kishore Singh* himself, and addressed to Major *Caulfield*.

FROM your first arrival our friendship has continued to increase; you have done every thing I required of you; you discerned the rights of every one. If the Almighty is favourable to me, you will return. With regard to Prithee Singh's blood and the affairs of the state, Captain Todd, with fair promises, induced me to sign a paper and to return from Nahthwarra. With regard to Ram Singh's adoption and my debts, he wrote me to have no fears, but to confide in the British Government and return: beyond this, what other assurance could I require?

* I cannot advocate this opinion, because I believe, agreeably to Hindoo law, that when a younger son has been installed in what custom considers a due share of his father's property, he has no claim in law to that portion inscribed by his elder brother; and it strikes me, the said elder brother may adopt a child whose right to the property would be recognized by the law of inheritance, even if that property was an empire.

(signed) *J. Caulfield.* Political Agent in Harowtee.

require? which letter I have in my possession. After my return he personally acquiesced with regard to Ram Singh and the redemption of my jewels, and further said, that the debt due to Nadthwarra vested with him, and that he would have it liquidated. He further added, that my prudence was known to the Government, and that other arrangements would take place, and begged that I would rely upon him; he then left Kotah and proceeded to Nanta, where he drew up the papers relative to my stipend and establishment, and sent them to me with his own and Mathan Singh's signature; thus he deceitfully acted. Had I been consulted and agreed to the contents, my signature would also have been to the document. You will say that I mentioned all this several times before, but if I do not speak out to a friend like you, to whom shall I speak? Captain Todd drowned me in a river, and you have taken me out. In this would I recognize the Governor-general as my supreme governor, and you as my friend; I have nobody else. I shall never rest till I have adopted Ram Singh. I may by your favour have issue; if not, my affections are placed upon Ram Singh. If the British Government is aware of my fidelity, it will grant my request. The Government have constituted me the owner of the throne, and I will adopt whom I please. Bishen Singh has no ground for objection. I informed Captain Todd of this, who removed him to Unta, and I then returned to the palace. The custom of adoption is in force in Rajewarra and Bhulpoor, which is my reason for desiring to adopt. The Government is aware of the administration and aristocracy of the state. I eat the bread you have given. Previous to the treaty I was the heir to the throne. I am obedient to the will of the Government. I write in candour and sincerity; do you faithfully make known the same. I have right upon my side, and the Government will satisfy me. Assoaje Badee Chaul, Sumbut 1883; corresponding 20th September 1826.

Kotah Succession,
1825, 1826.

(True translation.)

(signed) *J. Caulfield.*

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations; 17 November 1826.

(No. 10.)

EXTRACT Letter from the Deputy Secretary to the Government in attendance on the Governor-General to the Resident at Delhi; dated 2 November 1826.

Sir,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your several despatches regarding the affairs of the Harowtee agency, also two letters in the Persian department, forwarding Khurreeta from the Maha Rao of Kotah to the address of the Right honourable the Governor-general, and to communicate to you the following orders and observations in reply.

2. After carefully considering the question of the arrangements which Rao Kishore Singh is desirous of adopting regarding the Kotah succession, and the information contained in the papers now under acknowledgment, the Governor-general has come to the following conclusions.

3. It is certain that the Maha Rao has not yet adopted, at least according to any legal and binding forms, his nephew, Koomour Ram Singh, and that Bishen Singh is at the present moment the next heir to the Raj. The Prince of Kotah must be considered to possess the right, in common with all other Hindoos, of adopting a son and successor in conformity with the rules of the Shaster, unless precedent and state usages can be pleaded, which distinctly bar the exercise of that right in the instance under consideration. There is no objection founded on a reference to the former conduct of the father, Prithee Singh, against the selection of Ram Singh as the object of adoption. The Governor-general, however, is quite satisfied that we are not called upon to indulge the Maha Rao's preference of his nephew to the prejudice of the heir in the direct line, Bishen Singh, in opposition to any established and generally recognized principle of Hindoo law of affiliation. It remains, therefore, to be determined whether, with reference to the age of Ram Singh, his adoption can now legally take place; and on this point his Lordship will be anxious to learn your opinion, after you shall have consulted the best native legal authorities in Central India.

4. Other points to be settled are, whether, supposing Ram Singh not to have exceeded the legal age, his adoption would be valid under the reservation which

Kotah Succession,
1825, 1826.

the Maha Rao proposes to make in contemplation of the eventual birth of a natural heir, and also what would be the rights of a son born under such circumstances, according either to law or local usage and state precedents.

5. In the meantime, his Lordship requests the Maha Rao of Kotah may be informed that the Governor-general's silence on the subject of his Khurreeta does not arise from indifference to its contents, or from any want of friendly feeling and consideration; but before taking decided steps in so important an affair, his Lordship wishes that certain inquiries should be instituted to satisfy himself how far the fulfilment of the Maha Rao's intentions in regard to his nephew would consist with those rules and principles of law which are binding upon all Hindoos, and which must mainly guide the decision of the British authorities on a question of the above nature.

6. The Right honourable the Governor-general has perused with much interest and satisfaction Major Caulfield's report on the actual state of affairs at Kotah. It is gratifying to observe that a better feeling is beginning to prevail between Kishore Singh and the Raj Rana; and this desirable result his Lordship is disposed to ascribe chiefly to the judicious policy pursued by Major Caulfield. The Maha Rao himself appears to be fully sensible of the value of that officer's advice and exertions; and the tone of his letter forwarded on the 5th ultimo evinces, that the present political agent has succeeded in winning the confidence and esteem of that chief to an extent which reflects much credit on his address, temper and able management.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations; 2 February 1827.

(No. 9.)

LETTER from Resident at Delhi to Mr. Deputy Secretary *Stirling*; dated
Camp Dooblana, 5 January 1827.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a copy of a report from the acting agent at Kotah on the question of the wish of the Maha Rao of Kotah to adopt his nephew, Ram Singh.

2. It appears to me, that Maha Rao has a right to adopt his nephew, and that as a son, if born, would nevertheless be the acknowledged legitimate successor, there is no objection to the measure.

3. The Maha Rao is very anxious to receive the sanction of the Right honourable the Governor-general to this proceeding, which he has much at heart.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. T. Metcalfe*,
Resident.

Delhi Residency, Camp Dooblana,
5 January 1827.

LETTER from Mr. *E. M. Gordon*, Acting Agent at Harowtee, to Resident at Delhi; dated 6 January 1827.

I HAD the honour to receive Mr. Hislop's despatch on the 13th November last, and along with it, a copy of the Deputy Secretary to Government's despatch to you, under date the 2d November.

2. Agreeably to your instructions, I did not lose any time in instituting such an inquiry into the right of Maha Rao of Kotah to adopt as his successor to the guddee the Goour Ram Singh, his nephew, as might enable the Right honourable the Governor-general to come to a satisfactory conclusion on the question.

3. His Lordship seems to require additional information on two points:

1st. Respecting the law of the case; and,

2d. Respecting the expediency of granting or refusing the prince's requests, even though it may be admitted that his title to adopt his nephew is strictly legal.

4. In regard to the first point, it would appear to depend upon the answers which Hindoo law gives to the three following questions:—

1st. Can the prince of any state, who may not have any legitimate sons of his own, adopt as his successor the son of his deceased brother, to the exclusion of the title of a brother senior to the deceased?

2d. Does

2d. Does the age of the nephew whom his uncle, the Raja, wishes to adopt in any way affect the uncle's right of adoption?

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3d. Can the adoption be made conditionally, that is, in such a manner that if a son be born to the Raja subsequently to the adoption, the nephew's title to the guddee shall cease, and the son shall be held to be the next kin?

5. These questions were accordingly proposed for the consideration of a select punchayet of pundits, whose occupation consists almost exclusively in the interpretation of the sacred and law writings of the Hindoos. Partiality was attempted to be guarded against by the appointment of men whose bias runs in favour of different parties in the state. The answers which the above punchayet gave unanimously to the above queries, and after a full consideration of the subject, were as follows:—

1st. A prince who may not have any legitimate sons can adopt his nephew, the son of his deceased brother, to the exclusion of the title of a brother senior to the deceased.

2d. The right of a prince without sons to adopt a successor is undoubted, and the age of the person whom he proposes to adopt does not in the slightest degree affect his right of adoption.

3d. Should a son be born to the prince subsequently to the adoption of a nephew, the right of the latter to the guddee ceases, but he is entitled to a suitable provision from the state.

6. If these answers can be relied on as the undoubted doctrines of Hindoo law books, the question of law would appear to be set at rest; that these answers form a true statement of the laws I am disposed to believe:

1st. Because the interpreters are all of the same opinion:

2d. Because their opinion corresponds exactly with the information which I have received on the subject from all classes of people in the course of indirect inquiries which I have made:

And in the 3d place, Because the pundits quote the particular books and chapters in the Dhurrum Shastre and Pooranas, in which the above doctrines are held, and thereby render it almost impossible that false statements should not be detected.

7. The expression "a suitable provision," in answer third, is not sufficiently explicit. I failed in an attempt which I made to ascertain the precise amount and nature of the provision. I believe it in truth means such a provision only as the legal heir may think a sufficient one. It may be fairly said, however, that the adopted nephew does not suffer any great hardship by forfeiting his right of succession by the birth of a son to his uncle, inasmuch as he is fully aware, at the time of adoption, that such a contingency may happen.

8. With respect to the question of expediency, there are not any circumstances that I can discover in the state of parties at Kotah to render it in any way desirable that the British Government should depart from strict law in its decision upon the present question.

9. Under these circumstances, I hope you will think it proper to recommend that the Right honourable the Governor-general be pleased to grant the Maha Rao of Kotah's request.

10. It is perfectly well known to Madha Singh, the Raj Rana, that the Maha Rao strongly desires to adopt his nephew, although he has not as yet communicated his wish officially to the administrator. It is not necessary, I think, that he should do so until he knows for certain whether his claim shall be supported by the British Government.

I have, &c.

(signed)

E. M. Gordon,
Acting Agent.

Harowtee Agency, Camp Dablana,
5 January 1827.

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1825, 1826.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations; 4 January 1828.

(No. 16.)

LETTER from Resident at Delhi to Mr. Secretary *Swinton*; dated
18 December 1827.

Sir,

WITH reference to Sir Charles Metcalfe's despatch of the 5th January 1827, with its enclosures, and to Mr. Deputy Secretary Stirling's letter of 2d November 1826, I do myself the honour to submit, for the consideration and orders of the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council, the copy of a further letter from the political agent at Harowtee, reporting the final completion of the arrangements which Maha Rao Kishore Singh of Kotah has long meditated for the adoption of his nephew, Komur Ram Singh.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Edward Colebrooke*,
Resident.

Delhi Residency, 18 December 1827.

(No. 858.)

LETTER from Political Agent at Harowtee to Resident at Delhi; dated
17 December 1827.

Sir,

IN continuation of the subject of the affiliation of the Maharaja Ram Singh by the Maha Rao of Kotah, and his accession to the guddee of this state, in the event of the latter leaving no legitimate male issue, I have the honour to inform you that, after many abortive and vexatious endeavours, I have been so fortunate as to bring all parties to an apparent conviction that their several interests are inseparably blended, and that it is incumbent on them, as they regard their well-being, to evince by friendly offices and intercourse a reciprocal disposition to conciliate confidence and friendship.

2. The enclosed copy of an agreement between the Maha Rao and Raja Rana is the pleasing result, and will, I trust, prove a permanent source of amity and good-will, and serve to dissipate the embers of that animosity which has so long prevailed in the bosoms of the several parties whose factious intrigues have so greatly disturbed the prosperity of this principality.

3. In conclusion, I beg to observe, that as the prominent traits of the Maha Rao's character are weakness, indecision and changeableness, and those of the Raja Rana indolence and simplicity, they are necessarily exposed to the influence of interested advisers. With minds so framed to imbibe sentiments inimical to each other's welfare, the greatest caution, steadiness and impartiality are indispensable; and so long as they regulate the conduct of the agent in Harowtee, I cannot contemplate the recurrence of former dissensions and their consequences.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Caulfield*,
Pol. Agent, Harowtee.

Political Agent's Office,
Harowtee, Kotah, 7 December 1827.

TRANSLATION of an Agreement entered into by the Maha Rao *Kishore Singh* of Kotah, and the Administrator, Raja Rana *Madho Singh*.

1. SHOULD the Maha Rao Kishore Singh Jee have a son, he shall succeed to the guddee, and continue to possess it upon the same terms as the present occupant, and Ram Singh's situation shall remain unchanged; but should the Maha Rao not have a son, then Ram Singh shall succeed him, and enjoy the rank and privileges now enjoyed by the Maha Rao.

2. This arrangement is in no way whatever to subject the Government to any additional charge, as it is entered into exclusively to satisfy and conciliate the Maha Rao.

3. The Maha Rao agrees to abide by these articles.

Dated 13th of the full moon of the month of Auggin, Sumbut 1884.

Maha Rao's signature.
Rajee Rana's signature.
Major Caulfield's signature.

Kotah, 7 December 1827.

Ordered.

Ordered, That the following reply be returned to Sir Edward Colebrooke, in reply to the above despatch from him. Kotah Succession,
1825, 1826.

LETTER from Mr. Secretary *Swinton* to the Resident at Delhi; dated
4 January 1848.

No. 17.

Sir,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, dated 18th ultimo, with its enclosure, from Major Caulfield, reporting that the Maha Rao of Kotah has provisionally appointed his nephew, Koomvar Ram Singh, to succeed to the guddee, in default of legitimate male issue to himself; and in reply to acquaint you that, under the circumstances stated by the political agent, the British Government concurs in and acknowledges that arrangement.

I have, &c.

(signed) *G. Swinton*,
Secretary to Govt.

Fort William, 4 January 1828.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultations; 13 September 1828.

LETTER from Resident at Delhi to Secretary to Government, Political
Department; dated 28 July 1828.

No. 29.

Sir,

I do myself the honour to submit, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council, the annexed copy of a letter from the officiating political agent in Harowtee, reporting the death of the Maha Rao Kishore Singh.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Ed. Colebrooke*,
Resident.

LETTER from Acting Political Agent Harowtee to Resident at Delhi;
dated 20 July 1828.

Sir,

It is with feelings of more than common regret that I have to report to you the death of the Maha Rao Kishore Singh, which melancholy event occurred about an hour ago.

2. I shall do myself the honour of addressing you again on this subject to-morrow.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. Hislop*,
Acting Pol. Agent.

Harowtee Agency, Kotah,
20 July 1828, 9 P. M.

LETTER from Resident, Delhi, to Chief Secretary to Government, Political
Department; dated 29 July 1828.

No. 30.

Sir,

I do myself the honour to submit, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council, the annexed copy of a further despatch from the officiating political agent in Harowtee, relative to the last moments and death of the Maha Rao of Kotah.

2. His Lordship in Council will determine whether to give directions for a letter of condolence on this event, and of congratulation on his own elevation, being addressed to the new Maha Rao Ram Singh, or to wait the receipt of a communication of the event from the new Maha Rao himself.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. Colebrooke*,
Resident.

Delhi Residency, 29 July 1828.

Kotah Succession,
1825, 1826.

EXTRACT Letter from Acting Political Agent at Harowtee to Resident at Delhi ;
dated 22 July 1828.

4. RAM SING will be proclaimed as Maha Rao in the course of to-day or to-morrow, in conformity to local usage on such occasions ; some days will elapse before he takes his seat formally on the guddee. I believe that this ceremony cannot be performed until 10 or 12 days have elapsed, during which interval the observance of certain rites connected with the memory of the deceased is considered indispensably necessary.

5. In the meantime I would beg to suggest letter of condolence from yourself and the Right honourable the Governor-general to the address of Ram Singh and the Raj Rana.

No. 31.

LETTER from Resident at Delhi to Chief Secretary to Government, Political Department ; dated 31 July 1828.

Sir,

I do myself the honour to submit, for the consideration and orders of the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council, the annexed copy of a despatch from the officiating political agent in Harowtee, notifying the accession of Maha Rao Ram Singh of Kotah, and requesting instructions regarding the khillut to be conferred upon him on the occasion.

2. I have desired Captain Hislop to furnish me with a list of the articles which composed the khillut conferred upon the late Maha Rao on a similar occasion, and shall do myself the honour of transmitting it to you in continuation of this address ; but in consequence of the doubt entertained by Government regarding the propriety of conferring such khilluts in the instances of Oodypoor and Bickaneer, I have not ventured to take on myself to authorize Captain Hislop's providing any of the articles as proposed by him.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Ed. Colebrooke,*
Resident.

Delhi Residency, 31 July 1828.

LETTER from Acting Political Agent at Harowtee to Resident at Delhi ; dated
22 July 1828.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, that Ram Singh was proclaimed yesterday through the town of Kotah as Maha Rao.

2. It would be very desirable that the khillut which Ram Singh will receive from the British Government should be presented by me on the day of his taking his seat on the guddee ; and with this view, I would beg leave to suggest that you will authorize me to purchase the different articles necessary to make up the same, taking as my guide the khillut which was presented to the late Maha Rao on his accession, as you are aware how much importance is attached to a strict adherence to precedent in matters of this nature.

3. It would also seem a favourable opportunity of turning the public elephants here to account.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. Hislop,*
Actg. Pol. Agent.

Harowtee Agency, Kotah,
22 July 1828.

P. S.—I take this opportunity of mentioning that my despatch of yesterday was mis-dated.

Kotah Succession,
1825, 1826.
No. 32.

LETTER from Resident at Delhi to Chief Secretary to Government, Political Department; dated 9 August 1828.

Sir,

I DO myself the honour to lay before the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council the annexed copy of a despatch from the officiating political agent at Kotah, announcing the ceremony of Maha Rao Ram Singh's elevation to the guddee, and to apprise you, for his Lordship's information, that I have desired Captain Hislop to retain in his treasury the two nuzzurs of 101 and 21 gold mohurs, presented on the occasion by the Maha Rao and the Raj Rana, until his Lordship's pleasure shall be known in regard to the disposal of them.

I have, &c,

(signed) *E. Colebrooke,*
Resident.

Delhi Residency, 9 August 1828.

(No. 1002.)

LETTER from Acting Political Agent, Harowtee, to the Resident at Delhi;
dated 2 August 1828.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that the Maha Rao Ram Singh took his seat formally on the guddee of this principality yesterday forenoon, in the midst of the assembled chiefs, officers and dependents of the state, and the principal inhabitants of the town. I attended as a matter of course on the occasion, and shortly after I had taken my seat in the public hall of audience, where all the chiefs, &c. were assembled, Maha Rao, as had been previously arranged, entered accompanied by the Raj Rana and his sons. I advanced some distance to meet him, and taking hold of his hand led him up to the guddee, and seated him on it. I then addressed a few words to him, expressive of the very great pleasure it afforded me to take part in a ceremony which I trusted might be considered as an auspicious prelude to a long, happy and prosperous reign, and that, surrounded as he was by his own brethren, dependents and subjects, those, I said, who most naturally feel the warmest interest in his happiness and welfare, and that of his Raj, I could still offer to him the confident assurance that the British Government yielded to none of them in a sincere and hearty desire to promote his happiness and comfort and the increasing prosperity of his Raj. The ceremony of the teekah was then performed by a young Bramin, and afterwards by myself, the Raj Rana and the principal chiefs successively. After which the Maha Rao presented to me a nuzzur on his own part to the Governor-general of 101, and the Raj Rana 21 gold mohurs, which I accepted. I remained in the Durbar until all the nuzzurs of the chiefs, &c. had been presented to the Maha Rao, and then took my leave.

2. It is with great satisfaction I report that it is a subject of general conversation in the town at Kotah, that the preparations for, and the ceremony itself, have exceeded anything that took place on the accession of the late Maha Rao, or even on that of his father and predecessor Oomaid, and that the Raj Rana has manifested throughout the utmost personal interest in the various preparatory arrangements, which were all of his own direction. Indeed, so striking has been the difference between his conduct on this occasion and what the public had expected from him, with reference to the great reluctance with which he was known to have concurred in the measure of Ram Singh's adoption, that all parties are loud in praise of the good sense and propriety of feeling which he has so prominently evinced throughout.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. Hislop,*
Acting Political Agent.

Harowtee Agency, Kotah,
2 August 1828.

Kotah Succession,
1825, 1826.

Ordered, That the following letter be written to Sir Edward Colebrooke.

No. 33.

LETTER from Chief Secretary to Government to the Resident at Delhi ; dated
13 September 1828.

Sir,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters reporting the death of the Maha Rao Kishore Singh of Kotah, and the succession of his nephew and adopted heir, Maha Rao Ram Singh, to the musnud of that principality.

2. The Right honourable the Governor-general in Council entirely approves the proceedings of the acting political agent on the above melancholy occasion ; and his Lordship in Council has also observed with peculiar satisfaction the liberal, considerate and praiseworthy conduct and demeanour of the Raj Rana during the last moments of the deceased prince, and in the arrangement of the ceremonials connected with the succession and instalments of the present titular sovereign.

3. That succession is of course recognized by the British Government, under the orders previously issued, and the Secretary in the Persian department will be instructed to forward to you by dawk, with the least practicable delay, a khelaut of investiture in token thereof, composed of the same number and description of articles as were granted to Maha Rao Kishore Singh in 1820. Letters of condolence on the death of the late, and of congratulation on the accession of the present Maha Rao, will be addressed by the Right honourable the Governor-general, both to that prince and to the Raj Rana, as soon as they shall have notified the above events to his Lordship.

4. The nuzzurs of 101 and 21 gold mohurs presented by the Maha Rao and Raj Rana will of course be brought to credit in the public accounts.

I have, &c.

(signed) G. Swinton,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Fort William, 13 September 1828.

Banswarra
Successions,
1838 & 1844.

Banswarra Successions, 1838 and 1844.

EXTRACT Political Letter from Fort William ; dated 9 October 1839.

1838, Political
Department,
Cons. 5 Dec. No. 59.
1839, Cons.
9 Jan., No. 62.
30 Jan., No. 37.
13 Feb., No. 47.
20 March, No. 76.

Para. 47. BHOWANY SINGH, the late Rawul of Banswarra, having died without leaving any male heir, his only child being a daughter, who, agreeably to Rajpoot law and usage, could, as a female, have no claim to the succession, Bhuhadur Singh was elected, with the consent and approbation of the leading chiefs of the principality, to fill the vacant guddee, and the new Rawul, who is about 50 years of age, has adopted as his eventual successor a boy named Luchmun Singh.

EXTRACT Political Letter from India ; dated 22 July (No. 23) 1844.

Banswarra.
For Cons.
9 Mar. 1844,
Nos. 50-53.

31. THE demise of Rawul Buhadoor Singh, chief of Banswarra, led to the succession of Luchmun Singh, his adopted son, to the guddee of that principality.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultation ; 5 December 1838.

No. 59.

From the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajpootana ; dated
14 November 1838.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general of India, copy of a despatch from the political agent

Reports the death
of the Rawul of
Banswarra, and the

agent in Meywar, bearing date the 11th instant, reporting the death of the Rawul of Banswarra, and the steps taken by him in order that the succession may be properly regulated, which appear to me to have been judicious, and well adapted to the exigency. Lieutenant-colonel Spiers will no doubt make a proper communication at a proper time to the Banswarra court on the subject of the sacrifice of life which took place on the occasion of the late Rawul's cremation.

steps taken by
Lieut.-colonel
Spiers in regulation
of the succession.

I have, &c.

(signed) *N. Alves*,
Agent to Governor-general.

Rajpootana Agency, Camp, Jeypoor,
14 November 1839.

From the Political Agent in Meywar to Lieutenant-colonel *N. Alves*, Agent to Governor-General for Rajpootana; dated 11 November 1838.

Sir,

I REGRET to inform you that, late yesterday evening, intelligence reached me of the unexpected death of Bhowany Sing, the Rawul of Banswarra, who died on the 6th instant.

2. This chief had been ill for some time past, but the last accounts gave me reason to suppose that he was much better, and in fact that he had nearly recovered.

3. The Rawul has left no male heir to his principality, his only child being a daughter of about 12 years of age, who, as you are fully aware, agreeably to Rajpoot law and usage, can, as a female, have no claim to the succession.

4. This chief being still a young man (about 34 or 35 years of age) had not, as far as I can learn, thought of making any adoption; I have therefore written to the principal and most powerful noble of the state, Urjoon Sing, of Guchee, a highly respectable and well-conducted person, to prevent any disturbance in consequence of this interregnum, and to be careful that the selection of the late Rawul's successor is made with the full consent of the Ranee (the mother of the Raja's child) and the whole of the principal chiefs of the state. Tacoor Urjoon Sing was at Banswarra when the Rawul died, and I have reason to believe is still there.

EXTRACT Bengal Political Consultation; 9 January 1839.

From the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajpootana; dated
11 December 1838.

No. 62.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India, copy of a despatch from the political agent in Meywar, dated the 4th instant, together with copies of its enclosures, by which it appears that the Banswarra succession question has been settled in a most just and satisfactory manner, consequent on the judicious advice offered by Lieutenant-colonel Spiers, for the guidance of those whose office it was to settle the point.

Reporting the satis-
factory settlement
of the Banswarra
succession question.

I have, &c.

(signed) *N. Alves*,
Agent to Gov.-gen.

Rajpootana Agency, Ajmere,
11 December 1838.

From the Political Agent in Meywar to Lieutenant-colonel *N. Alves*, Agent to Governor-General, Rajpootana; dated 4 December 1838.

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter to your address of the 12th ultimo, reporting the death of Bhowany Sing, the Rawul of Banswarra, I have now the honour to transmit for your information the purport, in English, of a letter dated the 27th ultimo, addressed to me by Ticcoor Urjoon Sing (the chief alluded to in the

Banswarra
Successions,
1838 & 1844.

4th paragraph of my letter above-mentioned), announcing the accession of Maha Rawul Buhadoor Sing to the vacant guddee of the principality of Banswarra.

2. I also enclose the purport, in English, of the writing alluded to in the Taicoor's letter, with the signatures appended of the several principal chiefs and authorities of the Banswarra government, and in testimony of their approval of that accession.

3. On the 21st ultimo, I received a letter from the chief of Khandoo, stating that it was the intention of the Ranee, Taicoor Urjoo Sing and some of the other chiefs, to put on the guddee the son of the Taicoor of Koomania, a boy of about 13 years of age, a very distant relation of the Banswarra family, and in contravention of his and his family's latter claim to it, and stating his intention of not submitting to such an election. I also heard the same account from other quarters, which induced me to address the Taicoor on the 21st ultimo, and to which letter he refers in the reply I now forward.

4. In that letter I strongly advised the genealogical records of the family to be consulted in the election of the heir to the guddee, and to take the next in succession to the late Rawul, which would most probably prevent future disputes and disturbances. I am happy to find that my advice has been taken, and that even the chief of Khandoo, who wrote to me in regard to his own succession, has, like the other chiefs, affixed his signature to the settlement which has taken place, in acknowledgment of the justice and propriety of the election of Maha Rawul Buhadoor Sing, and the adoption he has made of a successor.

5. Maha Rawul Buhadoor Sing is, I hear, about 50 years of age, and the boy he has adopted, Luchmun Sing, about four years of age.

I have, &c.

(signed) A. Spiers,
Pol. Agent.

Meywar Political Agency, Neemuch.
4 December 1838.

ABSTRACT.

AGENT forwards purport, in English, of a letter from Taicoor Urjoon Sing of Banswarra, acquainting him that the Maha Rawul Buhadoor Sing, one of the nearest in kindred to the late Rawul, had been elected by the Ranee and chiefs as Maha Rawul of the state.

(signed) A. Spiers,
Pol. Agent.

DOCUMENT referred to in the above Letter.

PURPORT, in English, of a Letter from Taicoor Urjoon Sing, of Gurhee, to Lieutenant-colonel *Spiers*; dated Munzsur Sood, 11 Sumbhut 1895, or 27 November 1838.

I HAVE received your communication of the 21st November, wherein you express a desire that, in order to guard against injustice being done to the rightful heir to the guddee, that the Banswarra should be referred to, and that the successor to the guddee be chosen with reference to it, and with the general consent of the Ranee, the nobles and chiefs of this state.

In reply, I have to acquaint you that Maha Rawul Pirtha Sing (grandfather to the late Rawul) had four sons, viz., Rawul Bijey Sing, Bukht Sing, Run Sing and Khooshal Sing. Rawul Bijey Sing, the elder son, had a son named Oomeyd Sing (father of the late Rawul); Bukht Sing, the second son, had also a son named Buhadoor Sing. Buhadoor Sing had accordingly ascended the guddee, and, having no son of his own, has adopted as his successor Luchmun Sing, grandson to Khoosal Sing (the fourth son of Perthee Sing), with the unanimous approbation and consent of the Ranee and the whole of the assembled nobles and chiefs of this state, who have given in a writing declaring their satisfaction with the settlement which has been made.

All

All the chiefs and the principal inhabitants of Banswarra have presented the usual nuzurana to Rawul Buhadoor Sing on his accession to the guddee.

The following chiefs were present when Maha Rawul Buhadoor Sing ascended the guddee of Banswarra, and adopted as his son Koonwur Luchmun Sing. This election and adoption was made with their full consent and that of the Rancee.

Rao Humar Sing, of Humeergurh.
Taccoor Urjoon Sing, of Gurhee.
„ Dowlut Sing, of Moola.
„ Bhyroo Sing, of Urthona.
„ Purhut Sing, of Bankora.
„ Humeer Sing, of Marthwass.
„ Bhyroo Sing, of Muko.
„ Khooshal Sing, of Kunora.
„ Golah Sing, of Soorey.
„ Bheem Sing, of Takurra.
„ Bhowanny Sing, of Kooshulpore.
„ Pertab Sing, of Aodwara.

Maharaja Maun Sing, of Khandoo.
„ Humeer Sing, of Soorpoor.

Taccoor Goolab Sing, of Tulwara.

Kotharee Sobha Chund, }
Shah Sookh Lall, } Officers of state.
Koteh Gumber Chund, }
Shah Murarjee, }

The above-mentioned chiefs and officers of the state have signed their names, and declared their entire satisfaction with the succession of Muha Rawul Buhadoor Sing to the guddee.

This paper has been drawn up and signed by Kotharee Sobha Chund.

(True translation.)

(signed) *A. Spiers,*
Pol. Agent.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Governor-General to Lieutenant-colonel *N. Alves*, Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana ; dated 4 December 1838.

Sir,

I AM desired by the Right honourable the Governor-general of India to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th ultimo, reporting the demise of the Rawul of Banswarra, and the steps taken by Lieutenant-colonel Spiers for the appointment of a successor.

2. In reply, I am desired to inform you, that the Governor-general approves the course pursued on this occasion.

I have, &c.

(signed) *H. Torrens,*
Offg. Sec. to Govt. of India
with Gov.-gen.

Camp, Ferozepore, 4 December 1838.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Governor-General to Lieutenant-colonel *N. Alves*, Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana ; dated 3 January 1839.

No. 76.

Sir,

I AM desired by the Right honourable the Governor-general of India to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th ultimo, and its enclosures, and, in reply, to convey to you the expression of his Lordship's satisfaction at the settlement of the Banswarra succession question.

I have, &c.

(signed) *H. Torrens,*
Offg. Sec. to Govt. of India with
the Governor-general.

Camp at Puttee, 3 January 1839.

Banswarra
Successions.
1838 & 1844.

No. 50.

EXTRACT Fort William Political Consultations ; 9 March 1844.

No. 51.

(No. 171 of 1844.)

From Major *C. Thoresby*, Officiating Agent to Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana, to *F. Currie*, Esq., Secretary to Government of India with the Governor-General ; dated Camp, Jypoor, 17 February 1844.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for submission to the Right honourable the Governor-general of India, the accompanying copy of letter from the political agent in Mewar, dated the 10th instant, reporting the demise of Rawul Buhadoor Sing, the chief of Banswarra, on the night of the 2d instant, and that he is succeeded upon the guddee by Luchmun Singh, an adopted son of nine or ten years of age.

2. This change in the occupant of the guddee does not cause any alteration of the administration of affairs, which is to be conducted as heretofore under Thakoor Rutun Sing, of Gurhee.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. Thoresby*,
Offg. Agent, Gov.-gen.

Rajpootana Agency, Camp, Jypoor,
17 February 1844.

DOCUMENTS alluded to in the foregoing Letter.

Enclosure. No. 1, in No. 51 of 1844.

(No. 21 of 1844.)

No. 51.

From Lieutenant-colonel *T. Robinson*, Political Agent in Meywar, to Major *C. Thoresby*, Officiating Agent to Governor-General for Rajpootana ; dated Camp, Chittore, 10 February 1844.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of Government, that by a communication received through the Banswarra vakeel in attendance at this office, I have been made acquainted with the decease of Rawul Buhadoor Sing, the ruler of that state, which event is stated to have taken place on the night of the 2d instant.

2. The Rawul had long been suffering under a dropsical complaint, which it was not expected he could ever recover, though partial relief had occasionally been obtained through the skill of his physicians.

3. The deceased chief has left no issue, but shortly after his own accession to the guddee of Banswarra, he adopted (in concurrence with all the chiefs of the state, and with the subsequent sanction of our Government) a relation of the family named Luchmun Sing, a boy about nine or ten years of age, and who consequently succeeds to the principality.

From *F. Currie*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to Major *C. Thoresby*, Officiating Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana ; dated Fort William, 9 March 1844.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Governor-general in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 51, dated 17th ultimo, reporting the demise of Rawul Buhadoor Sing, the chief of Banswarra, and the succession of his adopted son, Luchmun Sing, to the guddee, and to inform you, in reply, that no order is at present necessary on the subject.

I have, &c.

(signed) *F. Currie*,
Sec. to the Government of India.

Fort William, 9 March 1844.

Kishengurh Succession, 1841.

EXTRACT Political Letter from the Government of India; dated 15 September (No. 50) 1841.

Kishengurh
Succession,
1841.

8. LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SUTHERLAND shortly afterwards reported the death of the Kishengurh Raja without issue, and without the adoption of a son; and he requested to be put in possession of the instructions of Government on the subject of the succession.

Cons. 1841,
14 June,
Nos. 23 & 24.

9. It was stated in reply, that, with the imperfect information then before us respecting the claims of those who might be candidates for the succession to the guddee of Kishengurh, we were not competent to pronounce an opinion on the subject; but that if it appeared to be indisputable that the pretensions of the Futtehgurh family, as next of kin, were superior to those of any other claimant, we were disposed to concur with Lieutenant-colonel Sutherland, that they should be supported by the acknowledgment of the British Government.

10. The agent was meanwhile desired to report whether, on the occasion of the succession to this estate, it would be proper to demand a nuzzerana to the British Government, and if so, what amount should be fixed on this account, with reference to the revenues of the state.

EXTRACT Political Letter from India; dated 22 December (No. 71) 1841.

7. As regarded the question of the right of succession to the principality of Kishengurh, consequent on the death of the Raja, the agent reported, that the Ranee, widow of the late chief, had made an adoption which was opposed by other parties, and alluded to the representations which he had received from the rival claimants, intimating at the same time, that in the existing stage of the affair he had abstained from taking any part in the proceedings, or giving any opinion on the subject. Our instructions to Lieutenant-colonel Sutherland on this occasion were as follows:

P. 1841,
Cons., 19 July,
Nos. 36 & 37.
Cons. 2 Aug., No. 20.

8. We conceived that if the widow of the late Raja was enjoined or permitted by him to adopt a son after his death, she would unquestionably have the right to do so, and her election ought in that case to be acknowledged by the British representative as the proper heir to the late Raja. We entertained, however, considerable doubts whether, according to the customs of Rajpoot families, a widow was allowed the right of adoption, unless it had been expressly conferred upon her by her husband. The agent was therefore directed to ascertain clearly what was the prevailing custom in this respect, and if it was as supposed by us, he was instructed to satisfy himself that the Ranee had the permission of the late Raja to adopt a son after his death. For this purpose, it was hinted to Lieutenant-colonel Sutherland that it might be necessary to depute one of his assistants to Kishengurh; a measure which might at the same time be expedient, to prevent the rival parties in the state from making a dispute about the succession the ground of violence and bloodshed.

9. It was explained that we should not, under any circumstances, think it proper that the succession to this principality should be left to the chances of a struggle among the petty chiefs concerned--a course which would be attended with the revival of habits of license, and with the disturbance of tranquillity in all the bordering country. The question was considered by us to be properly one to be regulated by the agent of the British Government, after procuring full and authentic information of the rights, wishes and power of all parties.

10. With advertence to that portion of our former instructions on this subject which related to the question of demanding a nuzzerana on the occasion of the succession to this estate, the agent expressed the opinion that we could not claim it from Kishengurh any more than from the other principalities of Rajpootana, unless the successor should require a khillut of investiture, when, according to the course lately pursued, the nuzzerana would be in proportion to the cost of the khillut.

Kishengurh
Succession,
1841.

Paras. 7 to 10 of
Letter from Go-
vernor-general in
Council, dated
22 Dec. 1841, No. 71.
Kishengurh.

Pol. 1841,
Cons., 27 Sept.,
Nos. 31 & 32.

Pol. 1842.
Cons., 24 Jan.,
Nos. 22, 23.
26 to 29.

EXTRACT Political Letter from Fort William; dated 10 August (No. 27) 1842.

2. YOUR honourable Court have been already apprized that, under the doubts entertained by us on some points connected with the question of the succession to the Kishengurh principality, Lieutenant-colonel Sutherland was directed to depute one of his assistants to that quarter, with a view to ascertain clearly the prevailing usages of the Rajpoot states in such cases.

3. Mr. Strachey, the gentleman deputed on that mission, was enjoined, under instructions furnished for his guidance by Lieutenant-colonel Sutherland, to ascertain whether the Ranee had authority from her late husband to adopt an heir on his behalf, and if not, whether the usage of the Kishengurh house, in the matter of succession, allowed her the right of adoption without such authority. The facts elicited by the inquiries instituted by Mr. Strachey into these points were laid before the Government in a very perspicuous report submitted by him on the subject; copies of which, and the documents in connexion therewith, will be found on our proceedings of the next date.

4. The results of Mr. Strachey's inquiries were briefly these:—As regarded the question, whether the Ranee had authority from her late husband to adopt an heir on his behalf, no satisfactory evidence could be obtained; but any embarrassment which might have been felt from the uncertainty on this head was obviated by the information elicited on the second point of inquiry; namely, whether the usage of the Kishengurh house admitted of the adoption by the Ranee of an heir without the authority of her husband. The facts and arguments adduced by Mr. Strachey in support of the affirmative side of this question fully satisfied Lieutenant-colonel Sutherland that an adoption by a widow from amongst the nearest, although not the next, of kin to her deceased husband, when that measure had been carried into effect in conformity with the voice of the chiefs of the state, was in the estimation of the Rajpoot community valid, and that the adoption in the Kishengurh case was of this character, and entitled to the confirmation of our Government.

5. After due deliberation on the merits of this question, as brought to our notice in Mr. Strachey's report, and with advertence to the opinion expressed thereon by Lieutenant-colonel Sutherland, the Government of India recognized the Ranee's adoption of Sooltan Singh, otherwise called Perhee Singh, as heir to the Raja of Kishengurh.

6. On the question which arose out of the above arrangement, as regarded the exaction of a money nuzzerana on the occasion of the recognition by the British Government of the succession to any state or chiefship with which we had formed engagements, binding our Government to afford protection to that state, and the ruler of such territory to the duties of dependence and subordinate co-operation, the decision passed by us was as follows.

7. In the consideration of this subject, we at once set aside any reference to the prerogatives claimed and exercised by the native governments which preceded us, and assumed as the basis of our decision the principle that we should claim nothing on such occasions which our treaties did not authorize.

8. Where, then, a succession to an ancient hereditary chiefship might be obviously valid, as in the succession of a son or of a boy adopted in conformity with established usage, we conceived that we were bound by our engagements contracted with a chief, his heirs and successors, to recognize such succession without raising any question of money nuzzerana, which those engagements neither authorized, nor in any manner implied, as a part or condition of our recognition. The parties might require from us no investiture; and in that case it appeared to us that we had no claim which we could justly prefer on the score of nuzzerana.

EXTRACT Fort William Political Consultation ; 14 June 1841.

Kishengurh
Succession,
1841.

No. 23.

From Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William ; dated 21 May 1841.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, that Maharaja Mokun Singh, of Kishengurh, died on the morning of the 17th instant, in his 25th year. The Maharaja had long been in a delicate state of health, from which, however, danger was not anticipated, and he is said to have died of cholera.

2. The Maharaja has died without issue, and without adopting a son, having left only one widow.

3. The chief of Futtegurh is the next of kin, and next to him the chief of Raloota ; and I hear from Lieutenant Maenaghten, that on his death-bed the Maharaja named the latter as his successor. But neither on this subject, nor regarding the Raja's death, have I heard from the Kishengurh authorities, although the death of the Raja has been announced to the wukeel in attendance on me.

4. I would wish to be honoured with the instructions of the Right honourable the Governor-general of India in Council for my guidance in case of a disputed succession. There has long been a bitter enmity between the reigning family and the house of Futtegurh, arising probably out of the pretensions of that house as the next heir to the throne. It was principally the hostility of Futtegurh which led to the abdication of Maharaja Kullian Singh, and it has been chiefly owing to the same cause that the short reign of the late Maharaja has been one of trouble and contention with his chiefs ; we shall therefore probably find the ministers and officers of the late Maharaja opposed to the pretensions of the next of kin, and the chiefs of the state ranged on the side of or against those pretensions, according to their several interests, whilst it is obviously our interest, I think, to support the next heir.

5. I should mention, that the old chief of Futtegurh died a few weeks since, at a very advanced age, and that he has left a son, who appeared to me to be between 40 and 50 years of age ; this son went to Calcutta some years since, I think, during the administration of Lord Amherst, with the view of supporting the pretensions of his house.

I have, &c.

Rajpootana Agency, Camp Aboo, (signed) *J. Sutherland*, A. G. G.
21 May 1841.

Ordered, That the following reply be returned to the above.

From *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana ; dated 14 June 1841.

No. 24.

Sir,

YOUR despatch of the 21st ultimo, reporting the death of Maharaja Mohkam Sing, of Kishengurh, has been received and submitted to the Governor-general in Council, and I have his Lordship's instructions to state in reply, that with the imperfect information now in his possession respecting the claims of those who may be candidates to succeed to the guddee of Kishengurh, he is not competent to pronounce an opinion upon them ; but if it appears to you indisputable that the claims of the Futtegurh family, as next of kin, are superior to those of any other candidate, his Lordship in Council agrees with you, that they should be supported by the acknowledgment of the British Government.

2. I am directed to inquire, whether on the occasion of the succession to this estate you consider that it will be proper to demand a nuzzerana to the British Government, and if so, what amount of nuzzerana you would think it right to demand, with reference to the revenues of the state.

I have, &c.

(signed) *T. H. Maddock*,
Fort William, 14 June 1841. Secretary to Government of India.

Kishengurh
Succession,
1841.

EXTRACT Fort William Political Consultation; 19 July 1841.

(No. 849 of 1841.)

No. 36.

From Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India; dated 18 June 1841.

Sir.

I HAVE the honour, in continuation of my letter dated the 21st ultimo reporting the death of the Raja of Kishengurh, and on the subject of his succession, to state, that I shortly after learnt from the wukeel of that principality, and others, that the Ranee, widow of the late Raja (she being a daughter of the eldest son of the late Maharana Bheem Singh, of Oudeepore, who died before his father, and it is her mother who is and has been opposed to the present Maharana), had adopted a child three and a half years of age, Sooltan Singh, the fifth and youngest son of Bheem Singh, who is himself the fourth and youngest son of Bag Singh, who was the only brother of Birdh Singh, the great grandfather of the late Maharaja; I heard at the same time that this adoption was opposed by the senior branches of Bag Singh's descendants, the Futtehghurh family.

2. Presently two kureetas were brought me from the young Raja, who had been named Pirtee Sing; the wukeel said that the one was of condolence on the death of the late Raja, the other announcing his own accession. These I thought it right to decline to receive, until better informed of the mode of adoption, and of the power and rights of the parties favouring and opposing it.

3. I have since received a letter from the Ranee, announcing the death of the husband, and the adoption by her, in conformity, she says, with the Raja's dying declaration in his favour, of the young son of Bheem Sing; she also sends me a declaration in his favour by 22 of the chiefs of the state, and seven of the ministers and mootsuddes.

4. On the other hand, I have received letters from two brothers, chiefs of Futtehghurh, whilst the third has come here protesting against the adoption of the son of a younger brother of their house, and claiming the sovereignty in right of succession and according to usage. I have also received a letter from the Ralaota chief, who stood in the same degree of relationship to the late Raja with the father of the boy who has been adopted, and who claims the succession, although belonging to a younger branch, from some understanding which he says subsisted between the late Raja and himself. There is also a letter from six chiefs of the state, not related to the reigning family, warning me of the interested purposes of the party now in possession of power at Kishengurh in adopting Pirtee Singh.

5. There is no question, I believe, of the right of the Ranee to adopt a son, in conformity with Hindoo law, even after the death of her husband, and it is not necessary that the adoption should be from the senior branch of the house. But there is no question of the great inconvenience of this course to us and to others, it secures a long minority in the hands of women and interested servants of the state; and it yet remains to be seen whether the party which has adopted this course has the power of carrying through their measure, and of governing the country in peace; there have, so far, been no bad results from the course which has been followed, and I have abstained from taking any part in the proceedings, or giving any opinion upon them, although I think it right, in their present stage, to report for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general of India in Council.

I have, &c.

(signed)

J. Sutherland,

Rajpootana Agency, Camp Aboo,
18 June 1841.

Agent Governor-general.

ABSTRACT.

Para. 1. ADOPTION of a son by the Ranee of Kishengurh.

Para. 2. Two kureetas from the young Raja; reasons for declining to receive them.

Para. 3. Letter from the Ranee announcing the adoption.

Para. 4.

Para. 4. And from chiefs of the state, and relations of the family claiming the succession.

Para. 5. Agent has abstained from taking any part in these proceedings.

Kishengurh,
Succession,
1841.

(signed) *J. Sutherland,*
18 June 1841. Agent Governor-general.

Ordered, That the following reply be returned to the above:

(No. 1,919.)

From *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to Lieutenant-colonel *Sutherland*, Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana; dated 19 July 1841.

No. 37.

Sir,

YOUR letter of the 18th ultimo, reporting the death of the Raja of Kishengurh, and noticing the application made to you by different individuals in that petty state respecting the rights of succession, has been received by me, and submitted to the Governor-general in Council, by whom I am directed to furnish you with the following instructions on the subject.

2. If the widow of the late Raja was enjoined, or permitted by him, to adopt a son after his death, she would unquestionably have the right to do so, and her election ought in that case to be acknowledged by you as the proper heir of the late Raja. His Lordship in Council has, however, considerable doubts whether, according to the customs of Rajpoot families, a widow is allowed the right of adoption, unless it has been expressly conferred upon her by her husband. You will therefore do well to ascertain clearly what is the prevailing custom in this respect; and if it is as his Lordship supposes, you should next satisfy yourself that the Ranee had the permission of the late Raja to adopt a son after his death. For this purpose it may be necessary for you to depute one of your assistants to Kishengurh, and that measure might be expedient to prevent the small parties in the state from making a dispute about the succession the ground of violence and bloodshed.

3. In case of an adoption being ultimately sanctioned, you are requested to submit your statements as to the amount of nuzarana which it will be proper for the British Government to demand on the occasion.

4. His Lordship in Council would not, under any circumstances, think it proper that the succession to this principality should be left to the chances of a struggle amongst the petty chiefs concerned in it, which would be attended with the revival of habits of license, and with the disturbance of tranquillity with all the bordering country. The question is properly one to be regulated by the agent of the British Government, after procuring full and authentic information of the rights, wishes and power of all parties.

I have, &c.

(signed) *T. H. Maddock,*
Secretary to Government of India.

Fort William, 19 July 1841.

EXTRACT Fort William Political Consultation; 2 August 1841.

(No. 901 of 1841.)

From Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William; dated 3 July 1841.

No. 27.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 14th ultimo, relating to the succession to the Kishengurh principality, and nuzzerana thereon.

Relates to the suc-
cession to the
Kishengurh princi-
pality, and nuzze-
rana thereon.

2. Although this question is still in the same condition as reported in my letter, dated the 18th ultimo, yet I think it proper to state that I do not consider that we can claim a nuzzerana on succession from this principality, any more

Kishengurh
Succession,
1841.

than from the other principalities of Rajpootana, unless the successor should require a khillat of investiture, when, according to the course lately pursued, the nuzzerana would be in proportion to the cost of the khillat.

I have, &c.

Rajpootana Agency, Camp. Aboo,
3 July 1841.

(signed) *J. Sutherland,*
Agent Governor-general.

EXTRACT Fort William Political Consultation, 27 September 1841.

(No. 1,121 of 1841.)

No. 31.

From Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to Government of India, Fort William; dated Camp, Jodhpore, 25 August 1841.

Sir,

Copy of Instructions
to Mr. Strachey
submitted.

On the receipt of your letter, No. 1.919. dated the 19th ultimo, I requested Mr. Strachey to prepare to proceed to Kishengurh, for the purpose of making the inquiries noticed in the second paragraph of that letter; and as he is now prepared to enter on that duty. I have the honour to submit a copy of the instructions which I have this day addressed to him.

Relates to the
several claims to
succession at
Kishengurh.

2. There has not been the least reason to apprehend any struggle amongst the petty chiefs concerned in the discussion relating to this succession. The second brother of the Futtehghurh chief and the Ralaoter chief have been with me, and they are the only houses which pretend to any right to succeed the late Raja. The claim of the Ralaota chief is too absurd to be maintained, and seems to have been dropped; but if the Ranee has not the right to adopt a son, the head of the Futtehghurh house is then the undoubted successor.

In danger of public
disturbance.

3. Both the Futtehghurh and Ralaota houses have formerly, and to a considerable extent, been disturbers of the public peace: but I believe that both are at present too sensible of our power and disposition to punish all who might pursue such a course, to venture to adopt it, whatever may be the decision relating to the Kishengurh succession.

I have, &c.

Rajpootana Agency, Camp, Jodhpore,
25 August 1841.

(signed) *J. Sutherland,*
Agent Governor-general.

(No. 1,122 of 1841.)

From Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent Governor-general for the States of Rajpootana, Jodhpore, to *W. Strachey*, Esq., Assistant to the Agent Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana; dated Camp, Jodhpore, 25 August 1841.

Sir,

As you are now prepared to proceed to Kishengurh, I have the honour to transmit for your information a copy of a letter which I have this day written to Mr. Secretary Maddock, in reply to his letter of the 19th ultimo.

2. You have seen all the correspondence relating to the disputed succession to the Kishengurh principality, consequent on the death of the late Maharaja, and can, of course, take with you such of that correspondence as you require.

3. Since my letter of the 18th of June to Mr. Maddock was written, the concurrence, in the adoption of the six chiefs noticed in its fourth paragraph as being then dissenting, has been received, so that all the chiefs of the state, with the exception of those of Futtehghurh and Ralaota, the only two related to the family, now concur in the propriety of the measure.

4. There may be some difference of opinion on the subject of the right of a widow to adopt a son, where she was not enjoined or permitted to do so by her husband; where she had his authority, her right to do so would not, I think, be questioned any where in Rajpootana; and even where she had not his authority, her right would, I think, in most cases be recognized; the adoption being

being of course made from the nearest of kin to her deceased husband, although even in this respect great latitude is allowed. The Honourable Mr. Elphinstone, in his late History of India, says (chap. III. book II. p. 157), "Most of the schools, however, admit a species of adoption unknown to Menu, which is made by a widow on behalf of her deceased husband, in consequence of real or supposed instructions imparted by him during life. Some schools give the power of the widow, independent of all authorization by the deceased."

5. What you will have to inquire into is, first, whether the Rancee of Kishengurh had authority from her late husband to adopt a son on his behalf; and second, if not, whether the usages of the Kishengurh house admit of her adopting a son without such authority? The Futtelgurh chief, you well observe, claims the right of succession according to usage in his family, as the next of kin to the late Maharaja, and in opposition to the right of adoption as elsewhere exercised. He also says that the right of adoption, if exercised, would require that the child should be taken from his own family instead of from the family of his youngest brother, Bheene Sing. Such evidence as he may have to adduce in support of these claims will of course be received.

6. All parties from Kishengurh now here will accompany you, and notice of your mission has been given to the Rancee. They understand that the right of succession to the Kishengurh principality is a question which the British Government will decide, and I believe that all have too much respect for our power and for their own safety to venture to disturb the public peace, in consequence of its decision being contrary to the wishes and expectations of some of the parties.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Sutherland*,
Agent Governor-general.
Rajpootana Agency, Camp, Jodhpoor,
25 August 1841.

(True copy.)

(signed) *H. S. Bushby*,
Assistant to Agent Governor-general.

Ordered, That the following reply be returned to the above :

(No. 2614.)

From *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana; dated Fort William, 27 September 1841.

No. 32.

Sir,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, dated 25th ult., relative to the disputed succession to the Kishengurh principality, and in reply to inform you, that the tenor of the instructions issued by you to Mr. Strachey, on the occasion of his proceeding to Kishengurh to make the necessary inquiries on the subject, has met with the approval of the Governor-general in Council.

Political Department.

I have, &c.

(signed) *T. H. Maddock*,
Secretary to the Government of India.
Fort William,
27 September 1841.

EXTRACT Fort William Political Consultation ; 24 January 1842.

THE following despatch from the agent at Rajpootana, having been read *in circulation, is ordered to be here recorded, together with the minutes thereupon by the Governor-general and Messrs. Bird and Prinsep, as well as the letter written, in consequence, to the agent at Rajpootana.

* *Original*.

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Succession,
1841.

No. 22.

(No. 1390 of 1841.)

From Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent Governor-general for the States of Rajpootana, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William; dated Ajmere, 19 October 1841.

Sir,

On the 25th of August I had the honour to submit a copy of my letter, of the same date, to Mr. Strachey, on the subject of his mission to Kishengurh; and I have now the honour to submit a copy of the reply which I have received, dated the 7th instant.

2. The evidence likely to be produced in a case of this kind, as to the authority received by the Ranee from her late husband to adopt a particular person as his successor, must almost necessarily, as observed by Mr. Strachey, be of a character to which little value can be attached: but there is no question that an adoption by a widow from amongst the nearest, although not the next of kin to her deceased husband, when that adoption has been made in conformity with the voice of the chiefs of the state, is, in the estimation of the Rajpoot world, valid; and to this extent is the late adoption at Kishengurh of that character; it may accordingly be confirmed by us.

3. On the death of a chief of a Rajpoot house without issue, or heir by adoption, whether he be the head of a principality or a subject, the first thing to be done by his widow, provided one survives, is to adopt a son and successor, so that the head of the house may never die. In case the house be that of a subject, and the adoption be of an objectionable character, the sovereign confers the usual investiture, whether that extends to a khillut or the tying on of a turban, and the amount of fine or nuzzerana remains for after discussion and consideration.

4. It only remains, therefore, I think, for the Right honourable the Governor-general of India in Council to confirm the adoption by the Ranee of Kishengurh, of Sooltan Singh, now called Pirtee Singh, to be the successor of the late Maharaja Mokun Singh in the principality of Kishengurh.

5. I had the honour of stating, in my letter dated the 3d of July, to your address, that I did not think we could claim from any of the states of Rajwarra a nuzzerana on succession, beyond the value of the khillut which may be required; this, in so far as I know, has been the universal rule; and a very strong reason for continuing it is, that where it is observed, we cannot be charged with interested or selfish motives. The measure of adoption or of election, be it right or be it wrong, is their own.

6. The Ralaota Raja has questioned with me, as with Mr. Strachey, since his return to Ajmere, the propriety of the measure of adoption, claiming the succession for himself, on the ground of the late Raja's supposed written declaration in his favour. He did not pretend to deny that the measure has the approval of the chiefs, but says that they are poor and interested. When I asked him what the British Government was to do in a case of this kind, he said, "Take possession of the fort; take all power out of the hands of those who have the means of bribing and corrupting the chiefs, and then take their unbiassed and honest votes."

No. 23.

From *W. Strachey*, Esq., Assistant Agent Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana, to Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent to Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana; dated Ajmere, 7 October 1841.

Sir,

THE information which I now possess seems capable of elucidating the points to which your letter of the 25th August directed my attention. Without dwelling, therefore, on the method of my inquiries, with which you are sufficiently acquainted, I proceed to enumerate the facts thereby elicited, and I shall be careful to call by that name only such as are established by the consent of all parties, or such as unquestioned authorities have placed beyond a doubt. I shall also endeavour, in conformity to your desire, to do justice to the Futtehgurh claim, by noticing whatever arguments have been plausibly adduced in its favour. The claim of the Ralaota chief was formerly withdrawn by his vakeel, when I was at Kishengurh; he has, however, revived the subject in person,

person, within the last day or two, with no other effect than showing clearer than ever that his case is totally undeserving of attention.

2. I am instructed to inquire first, whether the Ranee of Kishengurh had authority from her late husband to adopt a son on his behalf; an affirmative would, as you observe, as all parties admit, establish the legality of the adoption. But I am unable to supply any definite answer to the question: the inmates of the palace assert that the Maharaja shortly before his death expressly commanded that this selection should take place; there are nine witnesses to the fact, some of them men of respectability; and if we regard the bitter enmity that has subsisted for two generations between the family of the Maharaja and that of the heir presumptive, nothing will appear more likely than a dying wish to the alleged effect. It is, however, certain that the great body of the chiefs doubt the truth of the story; and although they concur in the adoption, they do so on other grounds than this one of the injunction. The evidence, moreover, is so little of a kind to produce conviction, that I think it unnecessary to trouble you with details; and I am sure you would be slow to form a fixed opinion, much less affirm the validity of the Ranee's act, on the strength of this description of testimony. But no embarrassment need be anticipated from this uncertainty, as the discussion of the second point of inquiry will, I think, make clear.

3. That second question is, whether the usages of the "Kishengurh house admit of the Ranee's adopting a son without her husband's authority." It should be mentioned at the outset, that I have met with nothing to prove that the usages of Kishengurh differ from those of other Rajpoot houses in this particular. On the contrary, there is every thing to show that the laws of succession are the same throughout Rajwarra, whether among Seesoodras, Cutchwahs or Rahtores. The Futtehghurh claimant, it is true, protests against the admission of any other than Rahtore precedents, yet he does not neglect to draw arguments in his own favour from Oodeypore.* Though, therefore, it may be best to obviate every objection by addressing myself mainly to Rahtore customs, I shall not hesitate, for the more complete illustration of the subject, to notice additional examples from the history of other tribes.

4. It is conceded by all parties, that on sudden lapses, the Ranee becomes the legitimate head of the Government, and so continues till a prince of mature age takes his seat on the guddee, and it is by her invitation that the chiefs of the state and relatives of the deceased assemble to elect their sovereign. It is equally indisputable that, although such election will in general fall upon the nearest of kin, the rights of primogeniture are sometimes set aside; and even the heir apparent, on account of a real or seeming disqualification, has on occasions made way for a younger brother: thus in Marwar the famous Jeswunt Singh obtained the guddee to the prejudice of his elder brother, Umra, and Raja Chundrasen, 50 years earlier, was similarly preferred to the then heir apparent, Odey Sing. It is, however, not to be concealed that in these and in all other cases of departure from the rule of primogeniture, Rajpoot usage is not satisfied with an arbitrary and capricious decree of the head of the Government, but requires that a formal act of the chiefs and officers of the state should ratify the arrangement. In fact, with the exception of the Futtehghurh family, I have met with no one who disputes that a *bonâ fide* concurrence of the chiefs in the adoption of Sultan Singh would reconcile it to Rajpoot usage.

5. Or if those two or three interested voices require an answer, undoubted precedents are at hand to silence them. In Marwar, Devi Singh, son of Raja Ajeet, was adopted by Thookranee, of Pohkun, to the prejudice of several claimants of closer propinquity; and the widow of the Aliwa chief but the other day adopted the present incumbent, Khooshal Singh, to the exclusion of his elder brother, Prithce. In the Jeypore state, Meg Singh, the present chief of Diggee, was similarly chosen by the Thookranee, in preference to his elder brother, Bishen Singh. In Meywar a most apposite case is that of Nahar Singh, of Deogurh, who was elected to the exclusion of kindred of the seventh and eighth degree, himself being of the eleventh; and a great variety of like instances have occurred in the families of the minor chiefs; but the above have been quoted as the most prominent, from the rank and importance of the parties.

Further,

* The case of the Chumpawatjee Ranee is referred to. It is not sufficiently apposite to be mentioned in the body of this Report.

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Further, if a reference to the Seesoodians and Cutchwahas be not irrelevant, the orders of the British Government in the cases of the attempted Jeypore adoption in 1819. and the Banswarra succession in 1838, are sufficiently affirmative of the broad principle, that the Ranee, if supported by the great body of the chiefs, has a right to exclude the heir presumptive from the guddee.

6. In accordance with this view of the matter, I made it my business, when I was at Kishengurh, to inquire particularly from each thakoor individually, and in private, in what light he regarded the act of the Ranee. Only one person of importance was found to be unfavourable to the measure, and he is a man to whom interested motives would be at once ascribed by the Ranee's partisans (if his name was known), on the score of former disagreements with the Nazir. There are thus good grounds for believing that those conditions have been fulfilled at Kishengurh, which legalize an adoption like the present in an independent Rajpoot state.

7. But it has been urged by the Futtehghurh party, that the voice of the nobles should be accounted of little importance, where all are so dependent and selfish as those of Kishengurh, and that the British Government should decide a case like this on its own intrinsic merits. I am uncertain how far it is my province to enter on this question; but as the best of the Kishengurh chiefs are confessedly poor and insignificant, it may be as well that I should state briefly the reasons for and against the propriety of the measure.

8. Two reasons only are assigned against it with plausibility; one is, that a senior member of a Rajpoot family cannot properly become the adopted son of a junior one, that is to say, Mokun Singh, the late Maharaja, being the fourth in descent, cannot become the father, by adoption, of Sultan Singh, who is only the third in descent from their common ancestor, Buhadoor Singh. This is without doubt the rule generally observed; but two of the principal Kishengurh chiefs exemplify, in their own persons, a departure from it, they having been adopted by the widows of their own nephews. The Banswarra case, before referred to, is another perfect parallel; Rawal Bahadoor Singh, the second in descent, succeeded, and therefore, in Rajpoot phrase, was adopted by Bhowany Singh, the third in descent from the common ancestor, Prithee Singh, although there were other kindred alive to whom the supposed objection would not have applied. There are other instances of the succession retrograding, with which it is needless to trouble you, as it is admitted on all hands that the case often occurs where the eligible members of the family are so few as at Kishengurh.

9. It is secondly objected that the disagreement of the two houses does not warrant a sacrifice of the rights of primogeniture. The case of Raja Maun Singh, of Jodhpore, is put forward in support of the assertion, but it is so little of a parallel that it may be passed without comment in this place: on the other hand, the nearly unanimous voice of the Kishengurh chiefs, and the opinion of almost every intelligent Rajpoot that I have met with, is expressive of the propriety of the measure, on this very ground of the family difference: nor will this appear surprising, if we regard the importance attached to the education of a prince in Rajwarra, and the outrage that would be offered to the feelings and, perhaps, comforts of the Ranee, by the dominaunce of a hostile faction in her own house. We are aware that the Rajpoot inherits the family fends as well as fiefs, and she could not but feel a repugnance to adopt a lad of 16, who has been brought up to all but open hostility to her late husband's adherents; at the same time, the neutrality and insignificance of Bheem Singh, and the infantine age of his son, promised facilities for the management of the state, which she could hardly be expected to disregard.

10. Again, it must be universally agreed, that the late Maharaja, if the question had been proposed to him, would never have sanctioned the adoption in his own family of any one from that of Chand Singh; and however little credit may be given the Ranee for obeying an express command in the elevation of Sultan Singh, all must admit that she conformed to the well understood disposition of her husband, in turning her back upon Futtehghurh. A conformity of this kind, it will be inferred from what is said in para. 2, must have much weight with the Rajpoot public, and some portion of the support which the adoption has received may, perhaps, be attributed to this cause.

11. There is another circumstance which, by most accounts, would materially enlarge the right of the Ranee to a free unfettered choice of an heir: I allude to the large and independent jagheer to which the Futtehghurh claimant is heir, and

and on which he would lose all hold were he to succeed to the guddee. To accept a separate maintenance is, according to general opinion, to forfeit all title to the highest honours; in support of which view of the case, it will be observed, that where an elder is provided for, the accession of a younger to adventitious fortune is a matter of daily occurrence.

12. I have now enumerated all the circumstances which have been brought prominently to my notice. The laws of succession have been exemplified in the usages of the Rajpoots at large, and the Rahtores in particular. Objections have been discussed, wherever plausibly urged, and those features have been dwelt upon which give the adoption an air of propriety, and which are more or less kept in view by all its rational supporters. I cannot, however, conclude without noticing the popularity and good government of the Nazir, to whom the Ranee has entrusted the management of affairs, and to whose appointment as much as to any thing else may be attributed the vindication of the Ranee's choice in the eyes of all classes interested in the welfare of Kishengurh.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. Strachey,*

Asst. Agent Governor-general.

Ajmere, 7 October 1841.

(No. 154.)

From *T. H. Maddock, Esq.*, Secretary to the Government of India, to Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana; dated Fort William, 24 January 1842.

No. 29.

Sir,

Your despatch, No. 1390, dated 19th October last, forwarding, with your own opinion on the different points embraced therein, Mr. Strachey's report of his proceedings connected with the inquiry into the adoption by the widow of the late Raja of Kishengurh of a successor to that principality, having been received and submitted by me for the consideration and orders of Government, I am now directed by the Governor-general in Council to inform you in reply, that in consideration of the reasons urged by Mr. Strachey in his report, and declared to be valid by yourself, his Lordship in Council has been pleased to recognize the adoption of Sooltan Singh, otherwise called Pirthee Singh, to the raj of Kishengurh.

2. On the subject arising out of the foregoing measure, of the policy of exacting a money nuzzerana on our recognizing succession to states or chiefships with which we have formed engagements, binding the British Government to protection, and the rulers of such territories to the duties of dependence and subordinate co-operation, I am desirous to communicate to you, for your information and guidance, the decision which his Lordship in Council has come to, after giving the subject that consideration which its great importance seemed to demand.

3. The instance before Government on the present occasion is the adoption of a boy by the widow of the late Raja of Kishengurh, without any proved authority from her deceased husband, but with the assent and confirmation of the chiefs of the state. An adoption of that description is described by Mr. Strachey and yourself to be unquestionably valid in the estimation of the Rajpoots.

4. In viewing this subject, his Lordship in Council would at once put aside any reference to the prerogatives claimed and exercised by the former emperors of Delhi, or any supposed rights which it has been thought might be assumed by us, because they were habitually enforced by those sovereigns, or by others who have at different times held supreme rule within the various provinces of their empire; his Lordship in Council would look only to the terms and spirit of the treaties or engagements which we have formed with the several states of India, and bring forward no demand other than such as, in reference to those engagements, may be indispensably consistent with good faith.

5. Where, then, a succession to ancient hereditary chiefships may be obvious, as in the case of a son, or of a boy adopted in conformity with established usages, we are bound, his Lordship in Council conceives, by our engagements, which are contracted with a chief, his heirs and successors, to recognize such succession, without raising any question of a money nuzzerana, which those engagements neither authorize nor in any manner imply as a part or condition of our recognition;

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nition : the parties may require from us no investiture. and in that case, we have no claim that we can justly prefer.

7. Upon the facts, therefore, and principles which are herein stated, his Lordship in Council is strongly of opinion that no nuzzerana beyond the value of the khillut that may be asked for from us, should be claimed in the present instance of the Kishengurh chiefship.

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Oudeypore Succession, 1841. 1842.

EXTRACT Political Letter from India; dated 10 August (No. 27) 1842

25. THIS correspondence relates to the adoption by the Maharana of Oudeypore, of his youngest brother Suroop Sing, as his heir and successor to the exclusion of Shere Sing, the elder brother : a measure which was carried into effect apparently in conformity with Hindoo law, and in the presence of the chiefs of the state ; but an undue precipitation in this arrangement, and the omission on the part of his Highness to announce the event in a letter directly from himself to the head of the Government, imparted to the transaction a character altogether inconsistent with the deference due from a dependent ally of the British Government.

26. The reply addressed to Lieutenant-colonel Sutherland on this subject was to the effect, that while the Government saw no grounds to object to an adoption made by the Maharana, which was not in itself opposed to the laws and usages of the Rajpoot community, or objected to by the principal members of his family, and by the chief persons of the state of Oudeypore, the want of deference to the British Government which had characterized the manner of the adoption, would preclude us from authorizing the agent for the present to take any notice of the measure, such as would mark our recognition of the arrangement.

EXTRACT Political Letter from India; dated 7 June (No. 15) 1843.

39. THE correspondence marginally cited will make known to your honourable Court the death of Maharana Sirdar Sing, of Oudeypore, and the accession to the guddee of Suroop Sing, the youngest brother and adopted heir of the deceased prince.

40. The succession of Suroop Sing to the chiefship of Oudeypore was recognised by the Right honourable the Governor-general.

EXTRACT Fort William Political Consultation; 29 November 1841.

(No. 1,533 of 1841.)

No. 114.

From Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Governor-General's Agent, Rajpootana, to *T. H. Maddock, Esq.*, Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William; dated 6 November 1841.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that I received some days since from Lieutenant-colonel Robinson a letter, dated the 29th ultimo, announcing that he had on the previous day learnt from the minister of Oudeypore, who is at Neemuch, that the Maharana had adopted his second brother, Suroop Sing, as his son and successor, which, without previous intimation either to himself or to the political agent, the minister considered an ill-advised and precipitate measure, in which opinion Colonel Robinson concurred with the minister. I have since received a letter from Colonel Robinson, dated the 2d instant, transmitting for my information a copy of a khurreeta which he had received from the Maharana, announcing the adoption of Suroop Sing on the day of the dusseerah, and informing me that he had been furnished with a copy of a khurreeta, which the Maharana had written to me on that subject.

2. I subsequently received the Maharana's khurreeta, in which his Highness states, that he had informed Colonel Robinson and myself, in our conference

ference of March last, of his nomination of Suroop Sing, as his successor, if no heir should be borne to his throne; that we had replied, that during his lifetime it was competent for him to name a successor; but afterwards, that there would be difficulty experienced in the nomination of Suroop Sing; that he had acted in conformity with what we have said, and on the day of the dusseera adopted Suroop Sing.

3. What passed in our conference with the Maharana on this subject was reported in the 8th and 9th paragraphs of my letter of the 3d of April last, to your address.*

4. I have replied to the Maharana that it was the wish of the British Government that all the sovereign princes of this country who had no issue should name their successors during their lifetime, and it was right that he should adopt a son, in conformity with Hindoo law and the usages of his principality. The adoption having taken place on the day of the dusseera, I hoped that the measure was in conformity with Hindoo law, the usages of the state, and that it was taken in the presence of the chiefs; but as this was not distinctly stated in his Highness' letter to me, I requested that this might be done, that there should in the mind of the Right honourable the Governor-general remain no apprehension of the validity of the measure being hereafter questioned, when I was sure that the announcement would be satisfactory to his Lordship in Council.

5. Colonel Robinson informs me, that there is no indication of any interruption of the public peace in consequence of the measure taken by the Maharana; that Shere Sing is residing as usual in the palace, and has made no complaint of the violation of his pretensions.

6. Copies of Colonel Robinson's letters, and of their enclosures of the Maharana's letter to me, of my letter to him of this date, and of the reply which I may receive from his Highness, shall hereafter be submitted for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general of India in Council; and I have now the honour to submit a copy of a letter which I have this day written to Lieutenant-colonel Robinson on this subject.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Sutherland,*
Agent Governor-general.

Rajpootana Agency, Ajmere,
6 November 1841.

ABSTRACT.

Para. 1. Notices letters received from Colonel Robinson, announcing that the Maharana of Oudeypore had adopted his second brother as his successor.

Para. 2. Nature of the Maharana's communication on this subject to Lieutenant-colonel Sutherland.

Para. 3. Relates to a former report, 3d April 1841.

Para. 4. Nature of the reply to his Highness.

Para. 5. No indication of dissatisfaction.

Para. 6. Copies of letters will hereafter be submitted.

(signed) *J. Sutherland,*
Agent Governor-general.

6 November 1841.

DOCUMENTS alluded to in the foregoing Letter.

(No. 1534 of 1841.)

From Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent Governor-General at Rajpootana, to Lieutenant-colonel *Robinson*, Political Agent, Meywar; dated 6 November 1841.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters, dated the 30th ult. and 2d inst., on the subject of the Maharana's adoption of his second brother,

* In my letter I observe that Suroop Sing is erroneously mentioned as the elder, and Shere Sing as the younger, brother of the Maharana, for I have never seen either of these personages.

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brother, and to transmit for delivery to his Highness a letter which I have this day written to him, with a copy for your information; also, copy of my letter of this date to Mr. Secretary Maddock on this subject.

Rajpootana Agency, Ajmere,
6 November 1841.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Sutherland*,
Agent Governor-general.

Ordered, That the following reply be returned to the above :

(No. 3420.)

No. 115.

From *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to Lieutenant-colonel *Sutherland*, Governor-General's Agent in Rajpootana; dated 29 November 1841.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, dated 6th inst., announcing that the Maharana of Oudeypore has adopted his second brother, Suroop Sing, as his son and successor; and in reply I am directed to state, that the Governor-general in Council will await the arrival of the further communication which may be expected from you on this subject, before passing any resolution on the measure in question.

I have, &c.
(signed) *T. H. Maddock*,
Secretary to the Government of India.
Fort William.
29 November 1841.

EXTRACT Fort William Political Consultations; 17 January 1842.

(No. 1739 of 1841.)

No. 134.

From Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent Governor-General, Rajpootana, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William: dated 8 December 1841.

Sir,

IN continuation of my letter and enclosure, dated the 6th ult., on the subject of the adoption of a son and heir by the Maharana of Oudeypore, I have the honour to submit a copy and translation of my letter to the Maharana, with copy and translation of his Highness' reply, and a copy of Lieutenant-colonel Robinson's letter, dated the 14th inst., through which it was received; also, copies of Lieutenant-colonel Robinson's letters, dated the 29th October and 2d November, and of the enclosure of the letter of all of which the substance was given in my letter of the 6th ult. to your address.

2. It will be seen that his Highness now distinctly states that the adoption has been made in conformity with Hindoo usage, in presence of the sirdars and brethren; that they presented their nuzzurs to the adopted son on the occasion, and that this was done by his second brother, Khooar Shere Sing, whose pretensions only, and those of his family, can be considered to have been violated by the adoption of his younger brother.

3. So far, therefore, the measure would appear to be complete. There is no announcement of it directly to the Right honourable the Governor-general through letter, and it may therefore be unnecessary for his Lordship to notice it; but it would be satisfactory to me to learn the sentiments of his Lordship in Council as to the reply which I should return to the Maharana's khureeta, or whether any reply be considered necessary.

4. A copy of this letter will be sent to Lieutenant-colonel Robinson.

Rajpootana Agency, Ajmere.
8 December 1841.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Sutherland*,
Agent Governor-general.

ABSTRACT.

Para. 1. Copy of correspondence submitted in continuation of the letter of the 6th ultimo, on the adoption of a son by the Maharana of Oudeypore.

Para. 2. Nature of the Maharana's announcement.

Para. 3. The measure is so far complete.

Para. 4. Copy of this letter for Lieutenant-colonel Robinson.

(signed) *J. Sutherland,*
Agent Governor-general.

8 December 1841.

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DOCUMENTS alluded to in the foregoing Letter.

Khurecta from Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland* to the Maharana of Oudeypore; dated 6 November 1841.

A. C.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Highness' letter, with a copy of the petition presented to you by Suroop Sing.*

Your Highness informs me, that you have adopted Suroop Sing as your son and successor. It is the wish of my Government that the sovereign princes of this country who are without issue should, during their lifetime, name and appoint their successors; and it was desirable that your Highness should adopt an heir in conformity with Hindoo law, and with the usages of your principality.

You inform me that this important measure was taken on the day of the dusseera, and I conclude, therefore, that it was in conformity with Hindoo law, and that the chiefs of the states were present.

But your Highness does not distinctly specify these things, which I beg may be done, that no doubt may remain on the mind of the Right honourable the Governor-general of the validity of the measure, or apprehension that it will be hereafter questioned, when, I am sure, his Lordship will rejoice in the adoption.

(Translated.)

(signed) *J. Sutherland,*
Agent Governor-general.

From Lieutenant-colonel *T. Robinson*, Political Agent, Meywar, to Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent Governor-General, Rajpootana; dated 4 December 1841.

Sir,

I HAVE herewith the honour to transmit a khurecta to your address from the Maharana of Oudeypore, being in reply to the one which was received from you a short time ago, for the purpose of being forwarded to his Highness.

2. The Maharana has furnished me with a copy of his communication to your address, for my information.

I have, &c.

(signed) *T. Robinson,*
Political Agent.

Meywar Agency, Camp, Dhumooneea,
4 December 1841.

TRANSLATION of a Khurecta from the Maharana of Oudeypore to the Address of Lieutenant-colonel *Sutherland*.

(Received 6 December 1841.)

AFTER compliments, and recapitulating the contents of Lieutenant-colonel *Sutherland*'s letter, dated 6 November, his Highness says,—

The Right honourable the Governor-general of India has always been satisfied with the conduct of this Raj, which was restored to prosperity through his friendship and favour, and I am satisfied that it will continue to prosper through the friendship of English gentlemen. You are experienced, the Governor-general

* For translation of this, see Colonel Robinson's letter, dated 2d November, herewith submitted.
(signed) *J. S.*

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general will be satisfied, and the Raj will prosper. You are acquainted with the usages of Hindoos, that whilst alive any one person may adopt any other as his son, at his pleasure; Jessulmere, Kotah, &c. as is known to you, have done so. If the adoption is not made during the life, then the Raj Punch may, from the nearest of kin, select and place on the guddee the person who is best qualified to rule. I mentioned to Colonel Robinson and yourself at Oudeypore my intention of adopting Kour Suroop Sing. You replied, "This may be done during your lifetime, but afterwards there will be difficulty." I remembered what you said: I was in greater bodily suffering than usual during the dusseera; was alarmed, from the servants and sirdars being disobedient, and despairing of life; was afraid of disturbances after my death. They before were rebellious, and caused the destruction of the Raj, which was only corrected by the British, for which the Raj is full of gratitude. Being alarmed, I came to the resolution of adopting a son during my lifetime. I several times requested Colonel Robinson to come from Neemuch, and was answered, that the season was very hot, and he was bad in health, and could not come. The colonel could not come, and in my apprehension, and on the day of the dusseera, I adopted a son. The sirdars and the brotherhood were present at the time. The sirdars and the brotherhood, including Bhae Shere Sing, presented their nuzzurs to Suroop Sing; and afterwards in the zenannah, nuzzurs were presented to him. This has all been done in conformity with usage; but the Raj is dependent on you, confides in you, and you will carry it through.

Mittee Mungsirbudee Ekum Sumbut, 1898.

(Translated.)

(signed) *J. Sutherland,*
Agent Governor-general.

From Lieutenant-colonel *T. Robinson*, Political Agent at Meywar, to Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent Governor-General for Rajpootana; dated 29 October 1841.

Sir.

It will probably be in your recollection that at our conference with the Maharana of Oudeypore in March last (the substance of which was reported to Government in your letter dated the 3d April last), his Highness, among other discourse, expressed his wish to adopt his youngest brother, Suroop Sing, as his heir and successor; stating as his reason for desiring to exclude Shere Sing, the elder brother, that he considered him disqualified, both mentally and bodily, to hold the reins of Government, and that he had, moreover, been leagued with the party who strove to prevent his own accession; the resentment entertained by the Maharana from the last circumstance, may not improbably be the principal, perhaps only reason for wishing to set aside Shere Sing and his issue: so far as I can learn (being unable to speak of either from personal knowledge), the two brothers are considered to be much on a par in point of capacity or intelligence.

2. From the time of the conference above alluded to until very recently, the Maharana had not in any shape revived the subject of a successor; but within these few days he seems to have become seriously alarmed at the bad state of his health, and on that account to have again turned his thoughts to the subject. I had learnt through his minister, who has been with me for some months past, as well as from himself, that he was desirous of seeing me at Oudeypore; but although neither of them specified the object for which my presence was required, I could be at no loss to surmise that it had reference to some arrangements for the succession; however, as I was already aware of his Highness' wish on that point, and could see no good purpose to be answered by the proposed meeting, I stated the reasons which preclude compliance at present with his Highness' wishes; but that I would repair to Oudeypore as soon as circumstances admitted; and that in the meantime I should be glad to receive any communication he wished to make to me, either in writing or verbally, through his minister, whichever might be most agreeable to him.

3. Nothing further occurred until yesterday, when I was surprised to receive intelligence through a respectable though not authentic source, that his Highness

ness had publicly declared his intention to adopt, if he had not already adopted, Suroop Sing, as his heir and successor. On receiving this intelligence, and just as I was sending for the minister to inquire into its accuracy or otherwise, I received a message from him to say, that he wished to speak with me on a matter of importance; he was soon in attendance, and confirmed what I had heard, at the same time expressing as much surprise as myself that the Maharana should have taken so ill-advised and precipitate a step without any previous intimation of his intention either to him (the minister) or to myself; he added, that his accounts mentioned that the Maharana proposed addressing a communication to me on the subject, which I might expect to receive in a day or two, and assigning as a reason for the delay in not sooner apprizing me of so important a matter, the sickness of the person employed in conducting the Maharana's confidential correspondence. This promised communication shall be forwarded to you as soon as received. In the meantime, I think it right to lose no time in reporting an occurrence so much out of the usual course of things.

4. The Maharana, as I believe you are aware, has for a considerable time passed suffered much from rheumatic pains in his joints, which at times have nearly deprived him of the use of his limbs, and to alleviate his suffering it is said that he has latterly given way to habits of intemperance. On hinting to the minister that a fit of inebriety might possibly have caused the indiscretion that had been committed, he seemed to acquiesce, and added, that his Highness' known good sense would certainly have otherwise restrained him from an act which carried with it an appearance of so much disrespect to the British Government.

5. I shall have the honour of again addressing you on this subject when I receive his Highness' promised communication, and have learnt further particulars of this strange proceeding. Perhaps it will now be more advisable than ever that I should keep aloof from any personal communication with his Highness, lest an impression should be created that the measure he has adopted may not have* without my advice or concurrence.

* *Orig.*

I have, &c.

(signed) *T. Robinson,*
Pol. Agent.Meywar Agency, Neemuch,
29 October 1841.

ABSTRACT.

RECORDING that the Maharana of Oudeypore had publicly declared his intention of adopting his younger brother, Suroop Sing, as heir and successor.

(signed) *T. Robinson,*
Pol. Agent.

From Lieutenant-colonel *T. Robinson*, Political Agent at Meywar, to Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent Governor-General for Rajpootana; dated 2 November 1841.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter of the 29th ult., I have now the honour to transmit copy and translation of a khureeta from the Maharana of Oudeypore, which his minister had apprized me that it was his Highness' intention to send on the subject of the adoption of Suroop Sing, his youngest brother, as his heir and successor.

2. A copy of a letter, which it appears the Maharana has also addressed to you on the same subject, was put into my hands at the same time with the khureeta to my own address, and which, being of the same import as the communication made to me, seems to require no separate observation.

3. As I cannot be certain in what light you may view this proceeding of the Maharana, or what reply you may consider proper to return to his communication to you, and as the subject is one of considerable importance, it appears to me that the most advisable course I can adopt under these circumstances is to leave the discussion of the question entirely to your hands, and to abstain from returning any reply whatever to his Highness' letter to me, lest it should be at variance with your view of the case, and thus, perhaps, cause some embarrassment.

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4. But for the circumstance of the Maharana's having addressed himself to you direct, it was my intention to have replied to the effect that I was concerned to hear of the precipitate measures he had adopted, as being apparently contrary to usage in such cases. Contrary to the principle which had regulated his own succession, and altogether inconsistent with the deference and respect due from a dependent ally of the British Government, at the same time to add my doubts whether the adoption he had made would be recognized by the Right honourable the Governor-general of India in Council.

5. You will not fail to observe in his Highness' letter the perverted turn given to our conversation with him on the occasion to which he has referred: so far from telling him he was "at liberty during his lifetime to adopt any one he pleased," I remember distinctly expressing our doubts of the legality of such an adoption as he proposed, while there was an elder brother in the case with a preferable claim: and that in reply to the expression of these doubts, his Highness remarked, that there was nothing irregular or improper in the measure: that it was optional with him to adopt whichever brother he pleased; and that he had rather been guided in his choice from the consideration of the elder brother being incapacitated from governing on account of his bodily infirmities. To the best of my recollection the conversation closed with your remarking that you could then give no opinion or decision on the point, but that his Highness' wishes would be submitted for the consideration of Government, and which was done accordingly in your letter of the 3d April last, to the address of Mr. Secretary Maddock.

6. It is, perhaps, to be regretted that no reply was returned to that part of your report of the conference in question, since a previous knowledge of the sentiments of Government on the subject would in all probability have averted the present dilemma, and induced the Maharana to refrain from the course he has adopted until sanctioned and approved by the paramount power.

7. There appears, I am glad to say, no indication of any interruption of the public tranquillity in consequence of this hasty proceeding of the Maharana. Shere Sing, who has thus been set aside, is residing as usual in the palace, and has made no complaint of the violation of his pretensions; and I consider it an additional security against any present disturbance, that those most concerned must be perfectly aware that the adoption of Suroop Sing is solely the Rana's own act, and not in any way the result of any previous consultation with the British or local officers.

8. However unusual and irregular may be the course which the Maharana has pursued in this matter, I am not aware that he has forfeited any pledge or engagement to our Government in what he has done; and our treaty with the Oudeypore state is altogether silent on the subject of adoption.

9. I enclose copy and translation of the petition alluded to by the Maharana, as having been addressed to him by Suroop Sing, and which has no doubt been concocted and prepared in communication with his Highness.

I have, &c.

(signed) *T. Robinson,*
Political Agent.

Meywar Agency, Neemuch, 2 November 1841.

ABSTRACT.

IN continuation of former Report, regarding the adoption of Suroop Sing by the Maharana of Oudeypore, and submitting copies and translations of communications received from his Highness on the subject.

(signed) *T. Robinson,*
Political Agent.

PURPORT, in English, of a Khureeta from Maharana *Surdar Sing*, of Oudeypore, to Lieutenant-colonel *Robinson*: dated October 1841.

After compliments.

WHEN you last visited this place, I spoke to you in the presence of Colonel Sutherland, that in the event of my having no male issue, it was my wish that
Suroop

Suroop Sing should be my successor; on that occasion you told me, that I was at liberty during my lifetime to adopt any one I pleased, but that after my decease it would be a difficult matter to carry my wishes into effect. Having taken this subject into my serious consideration, I deemed it proper in the late dusseerah festival to adopt Suroop Sing, and as I considered you my esteemed friend, I hope you will approve of and rejoice at my proceeding. I send you enclosed copy of a petition addressed to me by Suroop Sing. Should you think it advisable for me to address a khureeta to the Right honourable the Governor-general of India, I beg you will send me a draft of it, and I will accordingly prepare one for transmission to his Lordship through you.

(Translated.)

(signed) *T. Robinson*, Political Agent.

PURPORT, in English, of a Petition from Maharaja *Suroop Sing* to Maharana *Surdar Sing*, of Oudeypore.

After the usual exordium.

As you have been pleased to adopt me as your heir and successor, I beg to declare that I will in every respect act in obedience to your wishes, and see your daughters married, as also continue to the Rances the lands and villages they are in possession of at present. May your Highness live long. If a son and heir is hereafter born to you, I relinquish all claim to the guddee, and will be contented with the putta assigned to me, yielding an annual sum of 25,000 rupees. I will not listen to the advice of evil men. Should you have cause to be dissatisfied with my conduct, or that of my offspring, you are at liberty to remove me from your presence. No opposition will be offered to your wishes. I shall never be vain or proud of my adoption as your successor, and will not deviate from what I have here set forth. Eklungjee (the guardian deity of Meywar) is a witness between me and you.

Should I depart from what I have engaged, the British Government have the power of displacing me, and rejecting my claims to this state. Your injunctions about my performing a pilgrimage to Gyajee on your decease (which God forbid) shall be faithfully attended to.

(Translated.)

(signed) *T. Robinson*, Political Agent.

(True copies.)

(signed) *H. J. Bushby*,
Assistant Agent to Governor-general.

Ordered, That the following reply be returned to the above :

(No. 124.)

From *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Governor-General's Agent, Rajpootana; dated Fort William, 17 January 1842.

No. 135.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 1739, dated 8th ultimo, on the subject of the adoption of a son and heir by the Maharana of Oudeypore; and in reply I am directed to inform you, that while the Governor-general in Council sees no grounds that this Government has to object to an adoption made by the Maharana, which is not in itself opposed to the laws and usages of Rajpoot families, or objected to by the chief people of his family and of the state of Oudeypore, the want of deference to the British Government which has marked the manner of the adoption will preclude his Lordship in Council from authorizing you for the present to take any notice of the measures such as would mark our recognition of it.

I have, &c.

(signed) *T. H. Maddock*,
Secretary to Government of India.

Fort William,
17 January 1842.

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No. 33.

(No. 863 of 1842.)

No. 104.

From Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to Government India with Governor-General, Allahabad; dated Ajmere, 18 July 1842.

Sir,

Pol. Cons.
18 Nov. 1842.

REFERRING to Lieutenant-colonel Robinson's letter (No. 311), dated the 16th instant, to my address, with a copy of which you have been furnished, announcing the death of his Highness Maharana Sirdar Singh, of Oudeypore, I have the honour to submit a copy of a letter which I have this day written to that officer.

I have, &c.

Rajpootana Agency, Ajmere.
18 July 1842.

(signed) *J. Sutherland*,
Agent to Governor-general.

No. 105.

EXTRACT Letter from Lieutenant-colonel *J. Robinson*, Political Agent in Meywarra, to Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana; dated Neemuch, 16 July (No. 311) 1842.

1. I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a communication which I have just received from Lieutenant Crossman, the officer appointed to attend the Maharana of Oudeypoor on his pilgrimage to Bindrabun, reporting the demise of his Highness on the night of the 14th instant at Oudeypoor.

2. The Maharana, as you are aware, has long been in a declining state: and although it is possible that his death may have been somewhat accelerated by the over exertion alluded to by Lieutenant Crossman, I see no reason for the suspicion expressed by that officer, that "there has been a great deal of underhand work in the business." On the contrary, my information would lead me to believe, that the sole motive of hastening his Highness's return to Oudeypore was, that finding his dissolution fast approaching, his attendants, as well as himself, were naturally desirous that the funeral rites should be performed at the "Maha Suttee," the place where the ashes of my ancestors have been deposited for the last 300 years.

* * * * *

5. I shall be glad to be favoured with any instructions you may have for my guidance, consequent on the event now reported, though with reference to the recent correspondence that has passed regarding the succession, I conclude the period has now arrived for the recognition by our Government of the adoption of Suroop Singh, the younger brother of the deceased prince.

No. 106.

EXTRACT Letter from Lieutenant *Crossman* to Lieutenant-colonel *Robinson*, Political Agent, Neemuch; dated 15 July 1842.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that I received intimation on the 12th, that his Highness intended returning to Oudeypore. He accordingly started from "Rajnuggur" that evening, and reached Oudeypore on the night of the 13th, a distance of 18 cos; I arrived here last night. This morning I received intelligence that his Highness the Maharaja expired last night about 12 o'clock. I have not the smallest doubt, and it is also the medical man's opinion, that his death has been occasioned by the over-exertion.

No. 107.

EXTRACT Letter from Lieutenant-colonel *Sutherland*, Agent Governor-General Rajpootana, to Lieutenant-colonel *Robinson*, Political Agent in Meywar; dated Ajmere, 18 July (No. 862) 1842.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 311, dated 14th instant, with its enclosure from Lieutenant Crossman of the previous day, announcing the death of his Highness Maharana Sirdar Singh.

2. The recognition of the adoption of Kout Suroop Singh by the Right honourable the Governor-general of India, is, I conclude, alone wanting to ensure his unquestioned and undisturbed succession, and under the late declaration of his Lordship, it is only necessary for us to await that recognition.

(No. 877.)

Oodeypore
Succession,
1841, 1842.

No. 103.

(No. 877.)

EXTRACT Letter from Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Secretary to Government of India with Governor-General, Allahabad; dated 20 July 1842.

I HAVE the honour to submit a copy of a letter from Lieutenant-colonel Robinson, No. 315, dated the 18th instant, and of its enclosre, a letter from the minister of Oodeypore to his address, giving further particulars of the death on the 15th instant of Maharana Sirdar Singh of Oodeypore, and reporting the accession on the 16th of his adopted son, Kour Suroop Singh, in presence of such of the chiefs as were at the capital.

EXTRACT (in English), of a Note from *Mehta Ram Singh*, Minister of Oodeypore; dated Assur Sood 11, Sumbut 1898, or 18 July 1842.

No. 110.

ACCOUNTS have been received from Oodeypore, stating that on Friday, Assur Sood 8th, corresponding with 15th July, about 2 a. m., Maharana Sirdar Singh departed this life. Agreeably to ancient custom, Maharaja Koner Surroop Singh ascended the guddee, on which occasion Rao Dooleh Singh, Koomur Kessre Singh of Siboombhur, and Rao Bukt Singh of Baidla, were present. The event was immediately proclaimed throughout the city.

EXTRACT Letter from the Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-General, to the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajpootana; dated Allahabad, 8 August 1842.

No. 111.

I HAVE the honour, by desire of the Governor-general, to acknowledge the receipt of your two despatches, dated 18th and 20th July, Nos. 33 and 35, reporting the demise of the Maharana Sirdar Singh, of Oodeypore, and in reply, to state that his Lordship has no objection to recognise his adopted son, Kour Sooroo Singh, as successor to the vacant guddee.

Doongerpore Succession, 1846.

Doongerpore
Succession,
1846.

EXTRACT Foreign Letter from Fort William; dated 5 November (No. 15) 1847.

34. YOUR Honourable Court have been already apprized of the death of Jeswunt Singh, the titular Rawul of Doongerpore. We have now to inform you of the course which it has been determined to pursue for the succession to the chiefship of that state.

35. The deceased Rawul having left no issue or other lineal descendant, the question which presented itself for consideration was, whether the two principalities of Purtabgurh and Doongerpore should be united under the rule of Raja Dulput Singh, who had hitherto administered the affairs of the latter state under the title of Regent, or whether they should continue separate, and a new adoption * be made for the Doongerpore succession.

36. Whatever advantages might result from the incorporation of the two chiefships under one sovereignty, a sufficiently valid objection to this arrangement was considered by Lieutenant-colonel Robinson to exist in the repugnance evinced to the measure by the Sirdars of Doongerpore, who maintained that the circumstance of Dulput Singh's having intermediately succeeded to the guddee of Pertabgurh virtually annulled his adoption as presumptive heir to the principality of Doongerpore, inasmuch as there was no law or usage whereby the same individual could be entitled to hold the sovereignty of two separate and independent

* The arrangement by which Dulput Sing was adopted as eventual successor to the Doongerpore chiefship was not reported to Government, but is supposed to have taken place about 1813. He subsequently succeeded as lineal heir to the chiefship of Pertabgurh.

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independent states, and they therefore contended that a new adoption should be made for Doongerpore.

37. On being made acquainted with the objections urged by the Sirdars to the arrangement in his favour, Raja Dulput Singh, acting in the spirit of the advice given him by the Political Agent, to accede to their wishes on this point, assented to the proposed measure of adopting an heir from among the kindred of the late Rawul, to succeed to the guddee of Doongerpore. he himself continuing in the regency during the minority that might ensue. Both parties having mutually expressed a desire for this arrangement, the question of carrying it out was submitted for the consideration and orders of the Governor-general.

38. In the circumstances of the case, his Lordship had no objection to the course which it was intended to pursue, but before finally sanctioning it, he desired to be informed what arrangement should be made in the event of the demise, during the minority, of the child that might be adopted by Dulput Singh. Was the state of Doongerpore to revert to him in such case, and he to have the power of a second adoption, or was it to become an escheat to the British Government in the manner of other heirless principalities?

39. Lieutenant-colonel Sutherland having immediately, on the receipt of the letter which embodied the Governor-general's sentiments on this subject, forwarded a copy of it to the Political Agent, as if it contained a final decision on the case, was told, that although no inconvenience had resulted from this procedure, he had acted with precipitation in the matter, and had committed his Government to a course of policy which was made contingent on certain points on which his opinion was required.

40. The Governor-general concurred with Lieutenant-colonel Sutherland in considering, that in the event of the death of the child to be now adopted, there would be no objection to Dulput Singh's making a second adoption, provided such a course should be in accordance with the wishes of the chiefs of Doongerpore.

EXTRACT Foreign Letter from Fort William; dated 7 August (No. 36) 1848.

1846,
Cons., 26 Dec.
Nos. 344 & 347,
385 & 386.

27. IN para. 34 to 41 of our letter, No. 15, of 1847, dated 5 November, your honourable Court were informed of the arrangements made for the succession to the chiefship of Doongerpore. The papers noted on the margin communicate the adoption by Raja Dulput Singh, of Oody Singh, second son of the Chief of Sablee, a boy of seven or eight years of age, as successor to the principality of Doongerpore. This was acquiesced in by the principal chiefs and thakoors of Doongerpore.

EXTRACT Fort William Foreign Consultations; 25 April 1846.

No. 6.

(No. 50 of 1846.)

No. 106.

From Major *C. Thoresby*, Officiating Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana, to *F. Currie*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India; dated Ajmere, 9 January 1846.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to submit the accompanying copy of letter, No. 346, dated the 24th ultimo, from Lieutenant-colonel Robinson, with its enclosure, copy of my reply, No. 1534, of the 29th idem, respecting the demise, at Bindrabun on the 19th of the month, of Jeswunt Singh, titular Rawul of Doongerpore.

2. It will be in remembrance, that Raja Dulput Singh of Pertaubgurh, was adopted and declared his heir, by the late Rawul, some years ago, and that the consequent arrangement by which the two petty principalities of Pertaubgurh and Doongerpore would be united under one chief, has had the concurrence of the British authorities.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. Thoresby*,

Officiating Agent to the Governor-general for
the States of Rajpootana.

Rajpootana Agency, Ajmere,
9 January 1846.

(True copy.)

(signed) *J. Sutherland*,
Agent to the Governor-general.

DOCUMENTS alluded to in the foregoing Letter.

Doongerpore
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1846.
No. 110.

Enclosure 1, in No. 6, of 1846.

(No. 346.)

From Lieutenant-colonel *T. Robinson*, Political Agent in Mewar, to Major *C. Thoresby*, Officiating Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana; dated Meywar Agency, 24 December 1845.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your information, transcript of a letter, No. 268, dated 19th instant, from the magistrate of Muttra, reporting the demise of Jeswunt Singh, the ex-Rawul of Doongerpore, on the morning of that date.

2. The ex-Rawul had been so long removed from power, and indeed from all interference in the affairs of that principality, that I do not anticipate any disturbance of the existing order of things in the Doongerpore territory from the event now reported, although the time has now arrived for considering the provision to be made for the succession to the principality; a subject on which I shall hereafter have the honour of addressing you.

I have, &c.

(signed) *T. Robinson*,
Political Agent in Meywar.

Meywar Agency, Camp Chyrbore,
24 December 1845.

(True copy)

(signed) *J. Sutherland*,
Agent to the Governor-general.

Enclosure 2, in No. 6, of 1846.

(No. 268.)

From *Edward Thornton*, Esq., Magistrate, &c., Muttra, to Lieutenant-colonel *T. Robinson*, Political Agent in Meywar; dated Muttra, 19 December 1845.

No. 111.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter, No. 354, dated the 9th of last December, I have the honour to inform you, that Jeswunt Singh, the ex-Rawul of Doongerpore, expired this morning.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. Thornton*,
Magistrate.

Zillah Muttra, Magistrate's Office,
19 December 1845.

(True copy.)

(signed) *J. Sutherland*,
Agent to the Governor-general.

Enclosure 3, in No. 6, of 1846.

(No. 1534 of 1845.)

From Major *C. Thoresby*, Officiating Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana, to Lieutenant-colonel *T. Robinson*, Political Agent in Meywar; dated Ajmere, 29 December 1845.

No. 112.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 346, with enclosure, copy of a letter from the magistrate of Muttra, dated 19th instant, reporting the demise of the titular Rawul of Doongerpore, on the morning of that date.

2. In reference to the 2d para. of your letter, I beg to express my hope, that you will find it practicable and convenient to effect that arrangement regarding the succession,

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succession, which would seem to be in every respect appropriate, and has the approbation of the Government of India and the honourable the Court of Directors.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. Thoresby*,
Officiating Agent to the Governor-general
for the States of Rajpootana.

Rajpootana Agency, Ajmere,
29 December 1845.

(True copy.)

(signed) *J. Sutherland*,
Agent to the Governor-general.

On the 24th January last, it was ordered that the following reply be returned to the above.

No. 113. (No. 139 of 1846.)
From *F. Currie*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-General, to Major *C. Thoresby*, Officiating Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana; dated Camp, Ferozepore, 24 January 1846.

Sir,

For. Dep. I HAVE the honour to inform you, that I have received and laid before the Right honourable the Governor-general your despatch dated the 9th instant, No. 6, reporting the death, at Bindrabun, of the ex-Rawul of Doongerpore.

I have, &c.

(signed) *F. Currie*,
Secretary to the Government of India
with the Governor-general.

Camp, Ferozepore,
24 January 1846.

(True copy.)

(signed) *F. Currie*,
Secretary to the Government of India
with the Governor-general.

EXTRACT Fort William Foreign Consultation of 13 July 1846.

(No. 27 of 1846.)

No. 157. (No. 217.)
From Major *C. Thoresby*, Officiating Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana, to *F. Currie*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-General: dated Ajmere, 6 February 1846.

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter to your address of the 9th ultimo, No. 61, with enclosures, reporting the demise of the titular Rawul of Doongerpore, at Bindrabun, the receipt of which was acknowledged in your despatch, No. 139, of the 24th idem. I have now the honour to submit the accompanying copy of a letter from Lieutenant-colonel Robinson, under date the 28th of the same month, No. 20, and of its enclosures, together with the khureetah received at the same time from the Maharana of Oodeypore, for the Right honourable the Governor-general, and its translation, all relating to the question of the succession to the vacant guddee of Doongerpore.

2. It will be seen that Colonel Robinson is of opinion there exists a sufficiently strong and valid objection to the union of the two states of Doongerpore and Pertaubgurh, under Dulput Singh, the ruler of the latter, in the repugnance to the measure which has been discovered to pervade the minds of the Sirdars of Doongerpore, and that both parties are agreed in the circumstances of the case, upon the convenience and advantage of the selection and adoption by Dulput Singh,

Sing, of an heir to the guddee from among the nearest kinsmen of the late Rawul, he still continuing in the office of regent during the period of the minority that may ensue thereupon.

3. Since Dulput Singh may be considered to have voided his direct claim upon Doongerpore by returning to the inheritance of his own family, and the Sirdars of this state are not disposed to agree willingly to the loss of its individuality by an union with Pertaubgurh, whilst both Dulput Singh and the Sirdars agree about the course that might be advantageously adopted, I am not aware of there being any serious objection to an expedient which preserves in some degree the prescriptive right of the former, and secures his influence in the administration of affairs for a certain number of years, at the same time that no rights are violated.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. Thoresby,*

Officiating Agent to the Governor-general
for the States of Rajpootana.

Rajpootana Agency, Ajmere,
6 February 1846.

(True copy.)

(signed) *R. Morrieson,*
Assistant Agent to the Governor-general.

DOCUMENTS alluded to in the foregoing Letter.

Enclosure 1, in No. 27, of 1846.

(No. 20 of 1846.)

From Lieutenant-colonel *T. Robinson*, Political Agent in Meywar, to Major *C. Thoresby*, Officiating Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana; dated Camp, Bera, 28 January 1846.

No. 133.

Sir,

IN continuation of my letter of the 24th ultimo, reporting the demise of Jeswunt Singh, the titular Rawul of Doongerpore, I have now the honour to submit such information and observations as seem necessary to enable Government to dispose of the question of the succession to that principality.

2. The deceased Rawul has left a widow, but no issue either legitimate or otherwise, nor any relations who can pretend a claim to the succession on the score of consanguinity. A collateral branch of the family is said to be still in existence, but of such remote affinity that the precise degree of it has not yet been ascertained.

3. The main question that now presents itself for consideration would appear to be, whether the two principalities of Pertaubgurh and Doongerpore should henceforth be united under Raja Dulput Singh's rule, or whether they should still continue separate, and a new adoption be made for the succession to Doongerpore.

4. You are already aware, that the late Jeswunt Singh was, on account of incapacity and misconduct, deposed and set aside more than 20 years ago, and that on the occurrence of that event, he was allowed to name his successor. He pitched upon and adopted for that purpose Dulput Singh, with the reservation, however, that in the event of his hereafter having male issue, such issue was not to be deprived of his inheritance.

5. The contingency thus provided for not having taken place, Dulput Singh's position with respect to Doongerpore has consequently remained undisturbed, and under the title of regent, he has administered the affairs of the principality from that time to the present, with credit to himself and apparently to the satisfaction of all parties.

6. Under these circumstances, the event of the titular Rawul's decease would seem to make no other alteration in Dulput Singh's position, than in the change of title under which he would now administer the affairs of Doongerpore, should the two principalities be united under his rule.

7. It is alleged, however, by the chiefs of Doongerpore, as well as many others,

others, that the circumstance of Dulput Singh's having intermediately succeeded to the guddee of Pertaubgurh, virtually annuls his adoption, as presumptive heir to Doongerpore, inasmuch as there is no law nor usage whereby the same individual can be entitled to hold the sovereignty of two separate and independent states. They therefore contend, that a new adoption should now be made for Doongerpore, consequent on the demise of the ex-Rawul without issue or other lineal descendant.

8. Of the validity of these objections to the incorporation of the two states, under Dulput Singh's rule, I am unable to offer any decided opinion, not being aware of any precedent exactly in point, or even analogous; but as such objections have been urged, it seems right to submit them for consideration and decision.

9. On a former occasion when this subject was under discussion, the honourable the Court of Directors expressed themselves in favour of an arrangement by which the two principalities might be united under one rule, and approved of their incorporation under Raja Dulput Singh, on the death of the titular Rawul, remarking, that there was no objection "on the score of policy," if there existed none "in point of right." An extract from the Honourable Court's despatch is hereto appended for the sake of more ready reference.

10. There can be no question, I imagine, as to the inconveniences resulting from the existence of a number of separate and independent petty states within a limited tract of territory, or of the benefits that would accrue to each particular community, as well as to the public in general, from their absorption or consolidation under one head, whenever such arrangement could be effected without a sacrifice of the rights of incumbents or claims of expectants.

11. In the case in question I am not aware that the rights of any individual would be infringed by Doongerpore ceasing to form a separate principality, and being merged in that of Pertaubgurh, inasmuch as there is no lineal descendant of Jeswunt Singh to claim the inheritance, and therefore none whose pretensions can compete with those of Dulput Singh, unless his adoption should be declared void by reason of his subsequent accession to Pertaubgurh.

12. But while I conceive that the recognition of Dulput Singh as heir to Doongerpore would not infringe on the rights of any individual, I am, at the same time, decidedly of opinion, that such recognition would prove a very unpopular measure, and excite more discontent and dissatisfaction among the chiefs and thakoors of Doongerpore, than if the estate were declared an escheat to the British Government, and the management assumed by ourselves.

13. This impression is derived, not only from what I can ascertain of the feelings and sentiments generally entertained by the chiefs and other influential persons of Doongerpore, but also from the well-known fact that Doongerpore, though inferior in value as a territorial possession, has always claimed precedence over Pertaubgurh in point of rank and station, the rulers of the former being descended from a senior, and the latter from a junior branch of the ancient and then reigning family of Oodeypore.

14. It is true, that from the frequent failure of male issue in all these families (that of Oodeypore itself being no exception) and the numerous adoptions that have taken place to supply such failure, and to preserve the names of the several dynasties, there is no longer any blood relationship to be traced between any of them. Still, as no class of people are more sensitive than Rajpoots in matters of rank and precedence, or more tenacious in maintaining the dignity of their nominal descent and position when once recognized, it may easily be imagined how revolting it would be to Rajpoot pride and feeling to witness the absorption of their principality into one of avowedly inferior rank and pretensions.

15. The question altogether is doubtless one of some difficulty, for although Dulput Singh's adoption, as heir to Doongerpore, seems to have been perfectly regular, and to have met with general concurrence at the time, yet as it was not then anticipated that he would be reclaimed by his own family, and as no provision was made for such a contingency, it may possibly be considered that the arguments of the Doongerpore chiefs are not without weight, when they allege that Dulput Singh's adoption was thus virtually annulled, there being no instance of the same individual becoming the inheritor of two distinct and separate principalities. This point had attracted the attention of the honourable the Court of Directors, who, in the despatch already alluded to, observe: "We are
of

of opinion that it should have been ascertained what, according to the Hindoo law, would have been the effect of this adoption and subsequent reclamation."

16. As already stated, I am unacquainted with any law or precedent strictly applicable to the present case, but I may remark, that I believe all writers on Hindoo law admit that any person once adopted into another family ceases to have any claim on the inheritance of his own.

17. The deviation from this rule in Dulput Singh's case was sanctioned at the earnest solicitation of his grandfather, Sawunt Singh, who represented, that subsequent to his grandson's adoption, he had had the misfortune to lose all his own offspring, and that as by this calamity his grandson, Dulput Singh, was left his only surviving lineal descendant, and as he himself, in the common course of nature (Sawunt Singh was then verging on 80 years of age) could have but a short time to live, it would be the highest gratification to him to be assured that his grandson would be permitted to succeed to his birth-right, instead of the raj passing to a stranger at his death, which must needs be the case, unless his reclamation were previously effected.

18. It was under these circumstances that the grandfather's petition was acceded to, and I believe the foregoing particulars comprise all that is necessary to be said for the right understanding of this somewhat anomalous case.

19. Aware that it has hitherto been the policy of Government to leave to these petty states the choice of their own rulers, and that with the single exception of this question as to the succession, there has always prevailed a good understanding between Dulput Singh and the chiefs of Doongerpore, it occurred to me that there would be no great difficulty in effecting a compromise of the difference between them on this point. I accordingly suggested to Dulput Singh, through the medium of a confidential servant of his, whether, with his knowledge of the feelings and sentiments of the chiefs, it would not be advisable for him so far to gratify them, as to propose to leave to them the choice of a successor, who might be a boy selected from the nearest of kin to the late Rawul, or if no relations could be found, any other youth that they might conjointly fix upon, stipulating or not, as he saw fit, that he (Dulput Singh) should still continue in the regency, during the minority of the boy who might be selected, since it seemed not improbable, so far as I could judge, that after his thus evincing so great a proof of his disposition to conciliate the chiefs, they might of their own accord invite him to continue in the regency, which would be still better than any stipulation to that effect on his part. I added, that this was merely a suggestion of my own, to be adopted or rejected as he thought proper, as I had no authority to make any overture, or to enter into any negotiation on the subject, and could not say what might be the decision of my Government on the question at issue between him and the chiefs, only, that as the British Government had no interest in such matters beyond what related to the maintenance of the public peace, I concluded that no objection would be made to any arrangement calculated to secure that object, and which should at the same time be mutually satisfactory to themselves.

20. Dulput Singh returned for answer, that the same idea had occurred to him, and that he would be well content to accede to any arrangement which should be most agreeable to the British Government, to whose favour and protection, he said, he was very sensible he owed everything he possessed, and that he would, in accordance with my advice, place himself in communication with the chiefs of Doongerpore, for the purpose of obtaining their consent to some such amicable arrangement as had been suggested, and would hereafter let me know the result.

21. Having now received communications from each of the parties concerned, I have herewith the honour to transmit copies and translations of the same; one from Raja Dulput Singh and another from the chiefs of Doongerpore, both of which documents it would appear had been prepared previous to that concert and communication with each other which I had suggested. However, as the parties mutually express a wish for the same arrangement; viz. the adoption of a boy from among the kindred of the late Rawul to succeed to the guddee of Doongerpore, it only remains for me to solicit instructions as to whether it is the pleasure of Government that such arrangement should be carried into effect, and Dulput Singh continue in the regency during the boy's minority, or what answer should be returned to their respective representations. I have already intimated

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my opinion, that the arrangement in question would prove most generally satisfactory, and therefore most likely to obviate any local disturbances.

22. As relating to the present subject, I take the opportunity of forwarding a khureetah (with an English version of its contents) from the Maharana of Oodeypore, to the address of the Right honourable the Governor-general, which reached me some time ago, but which I delayed transmitting, until I could inform myself more particularly of the wishes and sentiments of the regent and chiefs of Doongerpore regarding the succession to that principality. The Maharana, it will be observed, prefers a claim for the adoption of a member of his family as heir to the guddee of the Doongerpore principality, on the ground that the late Rawul was descended from a branch of the house of Oodeypore, and that he was himself favourable to such an arrangement. Of what may have passed between them on the subject, I have no knowledge; but as neither the chiefs of Doongerpore themselves, nor Dulput Singh, make any allusion to any claim on the part of Oodeypore, and as the two states of Oodeypore and Doongerpore have long ceased to have any ties of consanguinity, and have been, in effect, totally severed for several centuries past, I should think the claim of the Rana untenable.

I have, &c.

(signed) T. Robinson,
Political Agent in Meywar.

Meywar Agency, Camp, Bera,
28 January 1846.

Enclosure 2, in No. 27, of 1846.

No. 139.

PURPORT, in English, of a Khuretah from *Maharawul Dulput Singh* of Pertabgurh, to the Address of Lientenant-colonel *T. Robinson*, Political Agent in Mewar; dated 27 January 1846.

A. C.

SINCE the time I have been adopted by Maharawul Jeswunt Singh, of Doongerpore, I have in every respect acted in obedience to the wishes of the British Government, and endeavoured to secure its approbation, as well as zealously administered the affairs of the state; these circumstances are well known to you from the records of your office. The kindest consideration has been given to my support by the British Government, in having allowed me to succeed to the Pertabgurh principality.

In consequence of the recent death of Maharawul Jeswunt Sing, it was but right that I should have occupied the guddee of Doongerpore; but as I cannot vacate the Pertabgurh musnud, it is requisite that I should make some arrangement for the succession to Doongerpore.

I am a young man, and through Divine favour, I still hope for issue; but in observance of the usual custom, and in accordance to the wish expressed by the nobles, chiefs and kamdars of Doongerpore in their durkhwest to you, I have thought proper to solicit the advice and sanction of the British Government to my adopting a good and well-behaved boy from amongst the relations of the deceased Rawul, to place him on the guddee, and to continue to administer the affairs of the state as usual. I therefore beg you will submit this, my request, to the Right honourable the Governor-general of India, and on my receiving the sanction of his Excellency, measures will be adopted to carry into effect the arrangement herein proposed.

(Translated.)

(signed) T. Robinson,
Political Agent in Mewar.

(True copy.)

(signed) R. Morrieson.
Asst. Agent to the Gov.-general.

Enclosure

Enclosure 3, in No. 27, of 1846.

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Succession,
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No. 140.

PURPORT, in English, of a Khuretah from *Maharana Suroop Singh*, of Oodeypore, to the Address of the Right honourable Sir *Henry Hardinge*, G. C. B., Governor-General of India; dated 29 December 1845.

A. C.

I HAVE been duly favoured with your Excellency's khuretah, dated 20th March 1844, in reply to my communication, stating, that the death of Maharawal Sawant Singh had created no vacancy in the succession of either the Pertabgurh or Doongerpore State, as he has left a successor.

Khureeta from Lord
Ellenborough.

Intelligence has this day been brought by a hurkara, that Rawul Jeswunt Singh of Doongerpore, departed this life on Pooshudee 6th, corresponding with the 20th December, at Bindrabun. This melancholy event has caused much sorrow and grief; it was, however, the will of the Almighty, whose decrees are unalterable.

It is well known that the Doongerpore chief is a branch of this family, and the late Rawul on several occasions, not only expressed a desire in writing, but deputed agents (who are still present here) for the purpose of arranging matters to adopt a person of this house as heir to the Doongerpore principality; but in consequence of the receipt of your Excellency's communication, the question hitherto remained in abeyance.

Dulput Singh, the adopted heir to the late Rawul, has succeeded to the guddee of Pertabgurh, and thus, agreeably to the usage of Rajwara, has forfeited all claims to the Doongerpore raj. I therefore beg your Excellency will issue instructions to the Agent at this Court, to place any person I may send from hence, on the Doongerpore guddee. By doing so, the name and credit of the British Government for justice and equity, will be exalted in the estimation of the chiefs of Rajasthan, and add to the friendship subsisting between the two states.

Colonel Robinson will communicate further particulars on this subject to your Excellency.

(Translated.)

(signed) *T. Robinson*,
Political Agent in Mewar.

(True copy.)

(signed) *R. Morrieson*,
Assistant Agent to the Governor-general.

Enclosure, No. 4, in No. 27, of 1846.

PURPORT, in English, of a Durkhawst from *Thakoor Burmee Deo*, of Bunkora; *Thakoor Kesree Singh*, of Put; *Thakoor Jye Singh*, of Koa; *Thakoor Bhowany Singh*, of Rumossa; *Thakoor Pirthee Singh*, of Beecheewara; *Thakoor Golab Singh*, of Solmej; *Thakoor Bhyro Singh*, of Manoo; *Thakoor Goolab Singh*, of Thakurra; *Thakoor Bijey Singh*, of Ladawul; *Thakoor Puddum Singh*, of Bugeree; *Thakoor Bijey Singh*, of Padree; *Thakoor Bhurut Singh*, of Sunawara; *Thakoor Khoomar Singh*, of Babje; together with other chiefs of Doongerpore, as well as Kamdars of that State; viz. *Surdar Singh Taulunkhee*, *Sirdar Soorma*, *Ubhe Singh Soorma*, *Shere Singh Solunkhee* and *Koobair Singh Solunkhee*, to the Address of Lieutenant-colonel *Robinson*, Political Agent in Meywar; dated Mahhud 6th, Sumbut 1902, or 18 January 1846.

No. 141.

AGREEABLY to the orders of the Sirkar Muha, Rawul Jeswunt Singh was removed from Doongerpore to Bindrabun.

On a late occasion we begged you to obtain the sanction of Government for the return of the Maharawal to Doongerpore, and you had promised to give due consideration to our representation. However, it has pleased the Almighty to close the life of the Rawul. On being informed of this melancholy event, the whole of us assembled at Doongerpore, and after the performance of the usual ceremonies, some of us observed that Raja Dulput Singh is now the

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Maharawul of Pertabgurh, and is yet without issue; that the old Rawul, whom we considered our Malik, had been taken away from us by the hand of death. It was then proposed that we should select a boy from amongst the relations of the deceased Rawul, and beg Raja Dulput Singh to adopt and send him as our master to Doongerpore, that we entertained no doubt of Raja Dulput Singh's acceding to our wishes; but in case of his making any objections, that the whole of us should wait on you and represent our case. Had Raja Dulput Singh any issue, we would have refrained from making any representation; but since he has none, the affairs of the state cannot be carried on without a ruler. We, therefore, beg you will point out to Raja Dulput Singh the propriety of his adopting the course proposed by us as early as possible.

(Translated.)

(signed) *T. Robinson,*
Political Agent in Meywar.

(True copy.)

(signed) *R. Morrieson,*
Assistant Agent to the Governor-general.

(No. 534 of 1846.)

(No. 72 of 1846.)

No. 142.

From Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent to Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana, to *F. Currie*, Esq., Secretary to Government of India with the Governor-General; dated Camp. Ulwar, 19 April 1846.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that I have heard, through a demi-official letter, dated 14th instant, from the Political Agent in Meywar, that those concerned are very anxious to receive the decision of Government on the Doongerpore succession question, submitted to Government in January or February last.

I have, &c.

Rajpootana Agency, Camp. Ulwar.
19 April 1846.

(signed) *J. Sutherland,*
Agent to the Governor-general.

On the 19th April last, it was ordered that the following letter be issued:—

(No. 1307 of 1846.)

No. 143.

From *W. Edwards*, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-General, to the Agent of the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana; dated Simla, 15 June 1846.

Sir,

Foreign Dep.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, dated the 6th February last, No. 27, relating to the objections raised by the chiefs of Doongerpore to the union of that state with Pertabgurh, under one sovereignty.

2. In reply, I am desired to state, that the Right honourable the Governor-general has no objection to the adoption, by Dulput Singh, of an heir to the guddee of Doongerpore, from among the nearest of kin of the late Rawul, as such arrangement is stated to be desired by the chiefs and officers of that principality; and as such an arrangement is in accordance with the usages of the chiefs of Rajwarrah.

3. But before finally sanctioning this measure, the Governor-general desires to be informed, what arrangement you consider should be made in event of the demise, during his minority, of the child who may be adopted by Dulput Singh. Is the state of Doongerpore to revert to Dulput Singh in such case, and he to have the power of a second time adopting an heir to the principality; or is the state to become an escheat to the British Government, in the manner of other states to which no heir exists?

4. You

4. You are requested to supply the Government with your sentiments on this subject at your earliest convenience.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. Edwards*,
Under Secretary to the Government of India
with the Governor-general.

Simlah, 15 June 1846.

(True copy.)

(signed) *W. Edwards*,
Under Secretary to the Government of India
with the Governor-general.

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1846.
—

No. 107.

(No. 775 of 1846.)

From Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana, to *F. Currie*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-General; dated Camp, Jeypoor, 16 June 1846.

No. 144.

Sir,

I HAVE just heard from Lieutenant-colonel Robinson, Political Agent in Mewar, that reference was made to the decision of Government about six months since, relating to the Doongerpore succession question, and that the parties concerned are very anxious on the subject, no instructions having yet been received.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Sutherland*,
Agent to the Governor-general for the
States of Rajpootana.
Rajpootana Agency,
Camp, Jeypore, 16 June 1846.

On the the 26th ultimo, it was ordered that the following reply be returned to the above :—

(No. 1370 of 1846.)

From *W. Edwards* Esq., Under Secretary, to the Government of India with the Governor-General, to Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana; dated Simla, 26 June 1846.

No. 145.

Sir,

IN acknowledging the receipt of your despatch, No. 107, dated the 16th instant, regarding the Doongerpore succession question, I am directed, in reply, to refer you to my letter on the subject, No. 1307, dated 15th idem.

Foreign Dep.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. Edwards*,
Under Secretary to the Government of India
with the Governor-general.

Simlah, 26 June 1846.

(True copy.)

(signed) *W. Edwards*,
Under Secretary to the Government of India
with the Governor-general.

No. 112.

(No. 800 of 1846.)

From Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana, to *W. Edwards*, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-General; dated Camp, Jeypore, 23 June 1846.

No. 146.

Sir,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your letter, No. 1307, dated 15th instant, on the subject of the Doongerpore succession, a copy of which shall be immediately

diately

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diately sent, for Lieutenant-colonel Robinson's information and guidance, with a letter, of which the enclosed is a copy; for it is a question which the authorities in that quarter have been long anxious to have decided.

2. Referring to the 3d paragraph of your letter, I do not see the least reason why a second adoption should not be had recourse to, if the first child should die either before or after attaining his maturity; and I do not understand by what process a Rajpoot principality, with which we are only connected by treaty, can ever escheat to the British Government; for there must, in all Rajpoot principalities, be numerous collateral heirs; and even if we had the right of succession, I should consider it very undesirable that we should burthen ourselves with such a state as Doongerpore, if it could be otherwise disposed of; for under our system of administration, it could never, in all probability, be made to pay its own expense.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Sutherland*,
Agent to the Governor-general for the
States of Rajpootana.

Rajpootana Agency,
Camp, Jeypore, 23 June 1846.

LETTER alluded to in the foregoing Communication,

Enclosure 1, in No. 112, of 1846.

(No. 801 of 1846.)

No. 147.

From Lieutenant-colonel *Sutherland*, Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana, to Lieutenant-colonel *T. Robinson*, Political Agent in Meywar; dated Camp, Jeypore, 23 June 1846.

Sir,

I HAVE now the honour to transmit a copy of Mr. Under-Secretary Edwards's letter (No. 1,307), dated 15th instant, on the subject of the Doongerpore succession, about which the people of that state and of Pertabgurh have been so anxious. A copy of my letter of this date to Mr. Edwards is also enclosed.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Sutherland*,
Agent to the Governor-general for the
States of Rajpootana.

Rajpootana Agency,
Camp, Jeypore, 23 June 1846.

(True copy.)

(signed) *R. Morrieson*,
Assist. Agent to the Gov.-genl.

On the 9th instant it was ordered, that the following reply be returned to the above.

(No. 1445 of 1846.)

No. 148.

From *F. Currie*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-General, to Lieutenant-colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana; dated Simlah, 9 July 1846.

Sir,

Foreign Dep.

I AM desired to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, dated the 23d ultimo (No. 112), on the subject of the Doongerpore succession, and in reply to express to you the Governor-general's surprise, that you should have acted upon my despatch of the 15th June, as if it had contained a final decision upon the case in question, and have thereby committed your Government to a course of policy which was by that despatch made contingent on certain points on which your opinion was required.

2. Although no inconvenience has in the present instance resulted from the measure, the Governor-general considers that you acted precipitately in communicating

nicating to the Political Agent his Lordship's sentiments on the question of succession, before receiving the final orders which my despatch of the 15th ultimo informed you it was his Lordship's intention to issue on the receipt of your reply.

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1846.

3. The Governor-general, I am desired to state, concurs with you in considering, that in the event of the death of the child to be at present adopted, there will be no objection to Dulput Singh's making a second adoption, provided such a course be in accordance with the wishes of the chiefs of Doongerpore.

4. A khuretah from the Governor-general to the address of the Maharana of Oodeypore, in reply to that of his Highness urging his claims to nominate a successor to the Doongerpore state, is herewith transmitted. Copy and translation are likewise forwarded for your information.

I have, &c.

(signed) *F. Currie,*

Sec. to the Govt. of India with the
Governor-general.

Simlah, 9 July 1846.

(True copy.)

(signed) *W. Edwards,*

Under Sec. to the Govt. of India with
the Governor-general.

EXTRACT Fort William Foreign Consultation; 26 December 1846.

No. 118.

(No. 855 of 1846.)

From Lieutenant-colonel *Sutherland*, Agent Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana, to *W. Edwards*, Esq., Under Secretary to Government of India with Governor-general; dated Camp, Jeypore, 3 July 1846.

No. 344.

Sir,

REFERRING to my letter, No. 112, dated the 23d ultimo, to your address, a copy of which was sent to the Political Agent in Meywar, I think it proper to submit a copy of the reply which I have received from that officer, dated 30th ultimo, on the subject of the Doongerpore succession.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Sutherland,*
Agent Gov.-general.

Rajpootana Agency, Camp, Jyepore,
3 July 1846.

LETTER alluded to in the foregoing communication.

Enclosure 1, in No. 118 of 1846.

From Lieutenant-colonel *T. Robinson*, Political Agent in Meywar, to Lieutenant-colonel *Sutherland*, Agent Governor-General for Rajpootana; dated Neemuch, 30 June 1846.

No. 345.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 801, the 23d instant, transmitting copy of Mr. Under Secretary Edwards's letter to your address, No. 1307, dated 15th instant, together with copy of your reply thereto, No. 112, dated 23d idem, concerning the Doongerpore succession question.

2. Under the circumstances stated in this correspondence, I conclude it is not intended that I should at present make any communication either to Raja Dulput Singh or to the chiefs of Doongerpore, regarding the succession. I therefore propose to await the receipt of the final instructions of Government in the case, which it may be presumed will be issued after the receipt of the expression of your sentiments on the points indicated in Mr. Edwards's letter.

Doongerpore
Succession,
1846.

3. In the mean time, I beg to express my entire concurrence in all that is stated in the concluding paragraph of your letter to the Under-Secretary's address.

I have, &c.

(signed) *T. Robinson,*
Political Agent.

Meywar Agency, Neemuch,
30 June 1846.

(True copy.)

(signed) *R. Morrieson,*
Asst. Agent Govt.-Genl.

No. 130.

(No. 922 of 1846.)

No. 346.

From Lieutenant-colonel *Sutherland*, Agent to Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana, to *F. Currie*, Esq., Secretary to Government of India with the Governor-General; dated Camp, Jeypore, 20 July 1846.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1445, dated 9th instant.

2. It was, with me, a mere form of office to send to the Political Agent in Meywar a copy of the letter, No. 1307, dated 15th ultimo, and I had not the least apprehension that Lieutenant-colonel Robinson would commit the Government by any precipitate communication to either Raja Dulput Singh or the Doongerpore chiefs, especially as a copy of my letter to you furnishing the information called for from me was at the same time sent to him. It occurred to me, that it would be satisfactory to his Lordship the Governor-general to have the expression of Lieutenant-colonel Robinson's opinion on the subject before issuing final orders, and the copy of his letter of 30th ultimo, furnished through mine of the 3d instant, will have shown that his opinion entirely concurred with that which I expressed.

3. I have further the honour to submit a copy of my letter of this date to that officer.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Sutherland,*
Agent Gov.-general.

Rajpootana Agency, Camp, Jyepoor,
20 July 1846.

LETTER alluded to in the foregoing communication.

Enclosure 1. in No. 130, of 1846.

(No. 923 of 1846.)

No. 347.

From Lieutenant-colonel *Sutherland*, Agent Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana to Lieutenant-colonel *Robinson*, Political Agent in Meywar; dated Camp, Jeypore, 20 July 1846.

Sir,

IN continuation of my letter, No. 801, dated 23d ultimo, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a letter from Mr. Secretary Currie, No. 1445, and dated 9th instant, conveying the final instructions of the Right honourable the Governor-general on the Doongerpore succession question; also a khureta from his Lordship for delivery to the Maharana of Oodeypore, and copy and translation for your information, with a copy of my reply of this date.

2. I think it proper also to enclose a copy of my letter, No. 118, dated 3d instant, submitting a copy of your letter of the 30th ultimo to my address.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Sutherland,*
Agent Gov.-general.

Rajpootana, Camp Jeypore,
20 July 1846.

(True copy.)

(signed) *R. Morrieson,*
Assistant Agent Gov.-general.

No. 186.

(No. 1233 of 1846.)

From Lieutenant-colonel *Sutherland*, Agent Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana, to *F. Currie*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-General; dated Nusseerabad, 7 October 1846.

Sir,

IN continuation of the correspondence relating to the adoption of a son by Maharawul Dulput Singh, of Doongerpore, I have the honour to submit a copy of a letter, No. 296, dated the 3d instant, from Lieutenant-colonel Robinson, with copies of its enclosures, showing that Oody Singh, second son of the chief of Sablee, a boy of seven or eight years of age, has been adopted by Dulput Singh, with the concurrence of the chiefs of Doongerpore; I need hardly add, that I am of opinion that this adoption is quite in accordance with Rajpoot usage.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Sutherland*,
Agent Gov.-general.

Rajpootana Agency, Nusseerabad,
7 October 1846.

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1846.

No. 385.

DOCUMENTS alluded to in the foregoing Letter.

Enclosure 1, in No. 186 of 1846.)

(No. 296 of 1846.)

From Lieutenant-colonel *T. Robinson*, Political Agent in Meywar, to Lieutenant-Colonel *J. Sutherland*, Agent Governor-General, Rajpootana; dated Neemuch, 3 October 1846.

No. 386.

Sir,

PURSUANT to the instructions conveyed in Mr. Secretary Currie's letter, No. 1445 of the 9th July last, to your address (received with your letter, No. 923, of the 23d July), I lost no time in apprising Raja Dulput Singh, of Pertabgurrh, of the arrangement that had been sanctioned by the Right honourable the Governor-general, for the succession to the Doongerpore principality, vacant by the demise of the late Rawul Jeswunt Singh, without male issue, or other lineal descendant.

2. I have now the honour to transmit copies and translations of two communications which I received on this subject, one from Raja Dulput Singh, reporting that, agreeably to the advice of the nobles and chiefs of Doongerpore, he had adopted, for the succession to that principality, Oody Singh, second son of the chief of Sablee, a boy of seven or eight years of age; another from sixteen of the principal chiefs and thakoors of Doongerpore, expressive of their concurrence in the adoption made by the Raja.

3. I likewise enclose copy and translation of the extract from the family register of the chief of Sablee (alluded to in Dulput Singh's letter), whose second son (Oody Singh) has been adopted.

4. So far as I can learn, this arrangement for the succession to Doongerpore appears to have given general satisfaction to all who had any claim to be consulted in the matter.

I have, &c.

(signed) *T. Robinson*,
Political Agent.

Meywar Agency, Neemuch,
3 October 1846.

Enclosure 2, in No. 186 of 1846.

(Enclosure 1, in No. 296 of 1846.)

PURPORT, in English, of a Khureeta from *Maharawul Dulput Singh*, of Pertabgurrh, to the Address of Lieutenant-colonel *T. Robinson*, Political Agent in Meywar; dated Asoji, Soodi 6, Sumbut 1903, or 27 September 1846.

A. C.

I HAVE received your communication, conveying decision of the Right honourable the Governor-general in regard to the Doongerpore succession, for which I feel very thankful: whatever trouble and difficulty I had to contend with during my

Doongerpore
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1846.

administration of the affairs of Doongerpore, embracing a period of nearly 25 years, I consider myself fully repaid for the consideration shown by Government on this occasion.

I have, agreeably to the advice of my nobles and chiefs, adopted Oody Singh for the Doongerpore guddee: he is the second son of the chief of Sablee, and is about seven or eight years of age; an extract from his family register accompanies this. I also send a letter to your address, from the several nobles and chiefs of Doongerpore, from which you will observe that the adoption has been made with their full consent. I trust you will kindly report these proceedings, for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general.

(Translated.)

(signed) T. Robinson,
Political Agent.

Enclosure 3, in No. 186, of 1846.

Ma Rawul Girdhur Singh, of Doongerpore.

Tej Singh. Hurry Singh.

Maha Rawul Jeswunt Singh.

Maha Rawul Khooman Singh.

Maha Rawul Ram Singh.

Maha Rawul Sheo Singh.

Maha Rawul Byree Lal.

Maha Rawul Futteh Singh.

Maha Rawul Jeswunt Singh.

Note.—The adopted son, Dulpnt Singh, succeeded to the guddee of Deolia Pertab in 1845, and Oody Singh? son of the chief of Sablee, has been adopted for Doongerpore.

Hurree Singh, Chief of Sablee.

Prithee Singh.

Rutton Singh.

Dheerut Singh.

Zalim Singh.

Jeswunt Singh.

Ukhee Singh—Oody Singh.
succeeded to the chiefship of Sablee. adopted for the Doongerpore guddee.

(signed) T. Robinson,
Political Agent.

Enclosure 4, in No. 186 of 1846.

(Enclosure 2, in No. 296 of 1846.)

PURPORT, in English, of a Letter to Lientenant-colonel Robinson, from *Thakoor Bceerun Deo*, of Bunkoorra; *Thakoor Gopal Singh*, of Thakurra; *Thakoor Bhyroo Singh*, of Mundwah; *Perthee Singh*, of Beecheewara; *Thakoor Kesree Singh*, of Peet; *Thakoor Jye Singh*, of Kooa; *Thakoor Gopal Singh*, of Solemj; *Thakoor Bijay Singh*, of Soadawul; *Thakoor Barut Singh*, of Sec-nurwara; *Thakoor Bhowany Singh*, of Bnuassa; *Thakoor Puddun Singh*, of Bugeree; *Thakoor Bijey Singh*, of Padree; *Thakoor Kesree Singh*, of Peet; *Solemkhee Surdar Singh*, *Soorma Abbe Singh*, *Soorma Surdar Singh*; dated Assoje, Sood 6, Sunbut 1903, or 27 September 1846.

WE were much gratified to learn, from your communication, that the Right honourable the Governor-general had been pleased to sanction the adoption of a successor to the guddee of Doongerpore from among the nearest of kin of the late Rawul Jeswunt Singh. Maharawul Dulpnt Singh Jee, has accordingly adopted

adopted Oody Singh, the second son of the chief of Sablee, with the concurrence of the whole of us; and the ceremony usual in Rajwarra on the occasion of adoption has been observed. We beg to assure you, that every one of us are quite satisfied with the arrangement which has taken place. You will be made acquainted with full particulars by Maharawal Dulput Singh, and hope you will report the same for the information of the Right honourable the Governor-general.

Doongerpore
Succession,
1846.
— —

(Translated.)

(signed) *T. Robinson,*
Political Agent.

(True copies.)

(signed) *R. Morrieson,*
Assist. Agent to the Gov.-general.

Kerowlee Succession, 1848, 1849.

Kerowlee
Succession,
1848, 1849.
— —

EXTRACT Foreign Letter from India; dated 7 September (No. 18) 1849.

10. SIMULTANEOUSLY with the report of the death of Pertab Pal, chief of Kerowlee, it was announced that the family, on the entire failure of heirs male, had adopted, according to custom, a boy named Nur Sing Pal, said to be between 12 and 14 years of age. The recognition by the Government of India of his succession to the guddec was deferred, until the instalment due by the state of Kerowlee to the British Government is paid.

1849,
Foreign Cons.
27 Jan.,
Nos. 66 & 23.

EXTRACT Fort William Foreign Consultations; dated 27 January 1849.

(No. 1132 of 1848.)

From Colonel *J. Low*, C. B., Governor-General's Agent for the States of Rajpootana, to *F. J. Halliday*, Esq. Secretary to the Government of India; dated Camp, Ulwur, 31 December 1848.

No. 16.

Sir,

I HAVE herewith the honour to enclose duplicates of despatches as noted in the margin, to the address of the Secretary to Government in the Foreign Department, with the Right honourable the Governor-general.

No. 21, dated
26 Dec. 1848.
No. 22, dated
29 Dec. 1848.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Low,*
Governor-general's Agent.

Rajpootana Agency, Camp, Ulwur,
31 December 1848.

EXTRACT Letter from Governor-General's Agent, Rajpootana, to *H. M. Elliot*, Esq, Secretary to Government of India with the Governor-General; dated Camp, Nuggur, 26 December 1848.

No. 17.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of Government, the death of Pertab Pal, the Raja of Kerowlee.

2. This event appears to have occurred after an illness of a few hours only, but there seems to be no doubt of its having been the effect exclusively of natural causes.

Kerowlee
Succession,
1843, 1849.

3. The Raja having died, not only without leaving a son, but also without any near male relative. I at first thought it probable that one of the widows would declare herself pregnant, which might, as on other similar occasions elsewhere, have afterwards been the cause of much trouble, but I am glad to say that nothing of that sort has occurred.

4. I have also to report, that a boy named Nur Sing Pal (said to be about 12 or 14 years of age) has been adopted by the family, and seated on the guddee of this little state, and that although there has been some quarrelling respecting the present guardianship of the boy, there has been none as to the selection itself, and I therefore infer that the choice has been made correctly; that is to say, according to long-established Rajpoot usages in such cases.

5. I imagine that it must have been owing to the quarrels above alluded to, that so long a time as several weeks elapsed before a direct report of the late Raja's death was made to me by any member of the family.

6. The vakeel from Kerowlee in attendance in my camp expressed an anxious wish that I could either proceed myself to Kerowlee, or depute an officer thither to put matters to rights in the family; but I have always observed that nothing but mischief occurs from our volunteering to adjust such family disputes, when no serious disorders in the country render our interference entirely necessary to listen to such advice, or to take steps in this case, of which indeed I then knew nothing excepting from public rumours.

7. On the 18th instant a messenger arrived with a khurreeta from the senior widow, as he stated, but on examination, the letter which it contained proved to be from the Ranee Kuchwae, a widow of Hurbaksh Pal, the predecessor of the late Raja; but she could have no right whatever, according to the laws of any Rajpoot family, to be the guardian of an adopted heir, unless in the very uncommon case of there being no widow alive of the last sovereign; and I therefore not only announced that I would not reply to her letter, but I refused to enter into any discussion with the messenger as to the present state of affairs at Kerowlee.

8. The letter just referred to was in the Hindoo, and extremely ill-written, so much so, that no one in my camp could decipher the whole of it, but herewith enclosing a copy and translation of all those portions of it which were legible; and I also enclose a copy and a translation of a general statement of the late occurrences at Kerowlee, and of a genealogical tree which I called for from the Kerowlee vakeel in my camp, after I received Ranee Kurchwae's khurreeta.

9. I also enclose a copy and translation of a khurreeta since received from the Maharanee Chaudelunjee, the senior widow of the late Raja, which I received after the vakeel had delivered to me the paper and the genealogical tree above mentioned.

10. It may be well here to mention, that the Kerowlee vakeel, Umjad Ali, above referred to, was in attendance on me on the part of that durbar for several years, when I was Political Agent at Jypore, and that I had then, and I have still, every reason to think highly of his character.

11. I beg to state, that I have no doubt the Ranee Chunderbunjee is the senior widow of the late Raja Pertab Pal, and as no accusations have been made, even by her enemies, that the present adoption has been illegal or irregular, I see no objection to the adoption of Nur Sing Rao, as Raja of Kerowlee, being confirmed by the British Government.

12. I think it right here to state the fact, that the late Raja Pertaub Pal* was also an adopted heir, chosen by the senior widow and the family of Kerowlee, after the death of his predecessor, Harbuksh Pal, and that the British Government confirmed that adoption.

13. Under all the circumstances above described, I would propose (after receiving your reply to this despatch) to address a khurreeta to the Ranee Chundeelunjee,

* Pertaub Pal did not succeed by virtue of the adoption, but his title to succeed as next of kin having been recognized, he subsequently, as has since been done by the present Raja of Joudpore and the present chief of the Holkar state, went through the ceremony of being taken into the arms of one of the widows of his predecessor.

Chundeelunjee, in the terms of the enclosed English draft, marked No. 4. The Government of Kerowlee is very poor, and therefore we should only demand a gradual liquidation of its debt to us; but we ought, I think, to insist on some commencement being made without delay towards that liquidation.

Kerowlee
Succession,
1848, 1849.

Documents alluded to in the foregoing Letter.

Enclosure 1, in No. 21 of 1848.

TRANSLATION of Khureeta from *Ranee Majee Kucherace Kerowlee*,* to Address to Colonel *Low*, C.B., Agent Governor-General, Rajpootana.

Compliments,

I AM rejoiced to hear that you are coming hither; I am about to lay my case before you, that you may understand it. A great calamity has occurred by the death of the Maharaja.

A son has been adopted, and I, the now rightful ruler, am not consulted; I live in the Attaree, and the Maharaja's palace is empty.

I am anxious for the welfare of the state; I have no one but you to whom I can look; I am alone; I pray that you will come and cause the child* to be made over to my protection, and that the affairs of the raj may be carried on under my control. Without my orders nothing can be done.† It is the custom of the Company that all should have their rights; I have been neglected; no one consults me; and all the well-wishers of the late Maharaja have been placed on one side. I pray that you will come and hear my case, and arrange affairs. This has been quickly written; I will write again. Shamud Khan‡ will tell you every thing. If you cannot come now, I hope you will send me some Chobdars, and Chuprassees, for there is injustice towards me. If you will not redress me, God will. I pray your kindness; much more might be said, but I hope you will think that there is more in my case than I have written.

By whom not specified.

A sentence occurs here that the Pundit cannot decipher, but it appears to be a complaint against some one who has been ruining the Raj for 12 years.

* Not known who this child is.

† Literally, not a leaf can shake.

‡ Probably the bearer of the khurreeta.

(Translated.)

(signed) *G. H. M. Masson*, Lieutenant,
19 December 1848, Assistant-Agent Governor-General.
Dated Poss Budpoonum.

Enclosure 2, in No. 21 of 1848.

(No. 19.)

TRANSLATION of a Kyfceut from *Kerowlee*, Vakeel, called for by the Agent Governor-General, Rajpootana States; dated 22 Mohurum 1265.

SOORUTHAL of Kerowlee, Maharaja Pertab Pal is dead.

He has left no son; a daughter and four widows survive him. Names of the widows:—senior, Chundalun, of Sheo Rajpoor; second, Nurrookejee, of Jaolee; third, Bhakawutjee, of Lawan; fourth, Rajawutjee, of Mamraolee. After the demise of the Maharaja, Chundalunjee, with the advice and consent of Rajpoots, and relatives, officers and confidential friends of the raj, adopted and placed on the musnud, Nursing Pal, grandson of Madho Pal, of Harantee, heir of a collateral branch of the same family as the deceased Raja. The descent of Pertab Pal and Mudoo Pal as follows: Dhurm Pal (Maharaja of Kerowlee), had two sons, Ruttum Pal, and Keerut Pal. Ruttum Pal succeeded Dhurm Pal, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Kornul Pal; Gopal Singh succeeded his father, Komur Pal, and dying childless, was succeeded by his first cousin, Toorsum Pal. Toorsum Pal had three sons, Manuck Pal, Jovahir Pal, and Nehal Pal; the latter died childless; the former succeeded his father, and left the musnud to his son, Harbux Pal, in whose time a treaty was made with Kerowlee by the Honourable Company; he died childless, and was succeeded by Pertab Pal (the late Raja), grandson of Jovahir Pal (above-mentioned), second son of Toorsum Pal. Pertab Pal

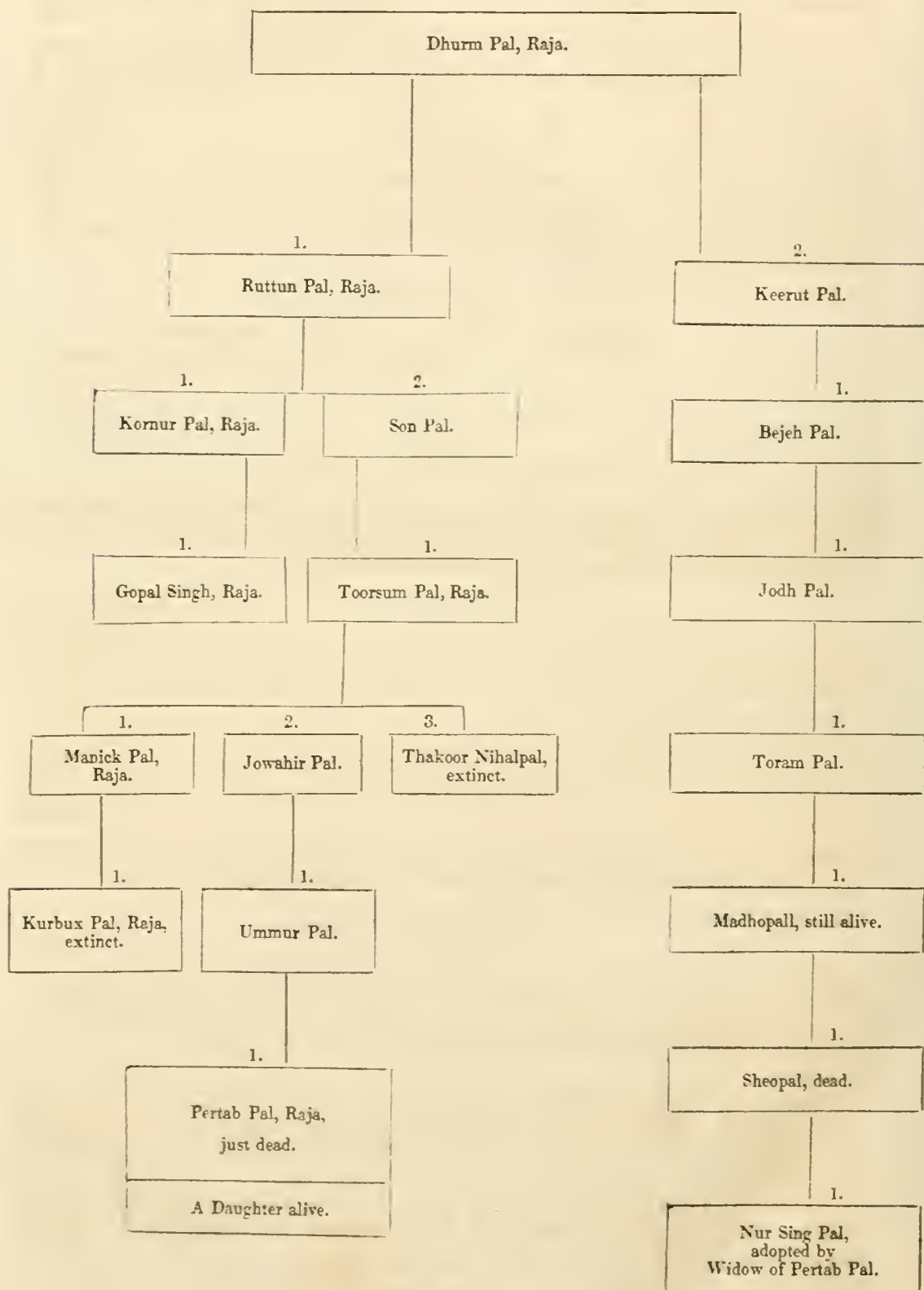
* The senior widow of Hur Bux Pal, predecessor of the late Maharaja.

Kerowlee
Succession.
1848, 1849.

Pal having occupied the musnud for 11 years, had just died without an heir, and Nursing Pal has been placed on the musnud, whose right is as follows: he is son of Sheo Pal, son of Madhupal, son of Torumpal, son of Jodhpal, son of Bajeh Pal, son of Kirut Pal, second son of Maharaja Dhurumpal. Nursing Pal, from this relationship, is the rightful heir to the Kerowlee musnud. For information.

(Translated.)

19 December 1848. (signed) *G. H. M. Masson*, Lieutenant,
Assistant to Governor-General's Agent.



(Translated.)

19 December 1848.

(signed) *G. H. M. Masson*, Lieutenant,
Assistant Governor-general's Agent.

Enclosure 3, in No. 21, of 1848.

Kerowlee
Succession,
1848, 1849.

TRANSLATION of Khurreeta from Maharanee *Chunderlunjee*, senior (in rank) Widow of the late Maharaja *Pertab Pal*, of Kerowlee, to Address of Colonel *John Low*, c. B.; dated 17 Mohurrun, Sum. 1265.

Usual compliments.

MAHARAJA *Pertab Pal* having fallen sick, died at midnight, on Etwar, 1st Mithee, a gun Soodi Sumbul 1905 (Sunday 26 November 1848); we are consequently in great grief. This state has always experienced great kindness at the hands of the British Government; it is therefore proper to acquaint you with the above event. Having taken counsel of all near relatives and of the state officers, I have adopted and placed on the musnud Nur Sing Pal, (grandson of Madho Pal), rightful heir to the guddee. We look to you for approval of this arrangement, and for support and comfort, which we hope you will, according to custom, kindly grant. Surdoram (manager of affairs), and others were in great trouble, but the Maharaja, Nur Sing Pal, and I, have endeavoured to console them; for they have always been my friends (*i. e.* friends of the raj); Seyd Unjad Ali Kerowlee Vakeel, attendant on Agent Governor-general, is with you, and will afford all information.

(Translated.)

(signed) *G. H. M. Masson*, Lieutenant,
Assistant to Governor-general's Agent.

Enclosure 4, in No. 21, of 1848.

EXTRACT Draft of the Substance of a proposed Reply from the Governor-General's Agent in Rajpoot States, to a Khureeta, received by him from the Ranee, *Chundeelunjee*, of Kerowlee; dated December 1848.

HAVING received your khurreeta, and sent a copy, and English translation of the same, to the Right honourable the Governor-general of India, and having explained to that high authority for * the present circumstances of the Kerowlee state, I have been instructed by his Lordship to inform you, that the British Government will confirm the adoption of Nur Sing Pal as the successor to Pertab Pal, the late Raja of Kerowlee, in the hope that you and the ministers and the chiefs, all according to your respective positions and duties, will devote yourselves to the proper management of the public affairs, so that the subjects and servants of the raj of Kerowlee shall be ruled with justice and moderation, that the expenditure of the state shall never exceed its income, and that immediate and effective steps be taken for the payment of the debt due to the British Government.

* Orig.

(No. 61.)

EXTRACT Letter from the Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-general, to Colonel *J. Low*, c.B., Governor-General's Agent for the States of Rajpootana; dated Camp Mukkoo, 16 January 1849.

No. 23.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 26th ultimo, No. 21, reporting the death of Pertab Pal, the Rajah of Kerowlee, and the adoption by his Highness' family of a boy named Nur Sing Pal, as his successor on the guddee.

2. In reply, I am directed to state, that the recognition of any heir will be deferred until the entire amount of the instalment now due by the state of Kerowlee to the British Government is paid.

Lapse of Colaba.

Lapse of Colaba.

Political Department, 25 May (No. 11) 1841.

Our Governor in Council at Bombay.

Lapse of the territory of Colaba.

Para. 1. WE now reply to your political letters, dated 30 October (No. 54) and 25 November (No. 56) 1840, which report to us the death of Kanojee Angria, the infant chief of Colaba, and the arrangements and discussions consequent thereupon.

2. By this event, the legitimate line of descent to the Colaba state has become extinct; and though several descendants of the founder of the Angria family are in existence, including two sons of Raghojee Angria, the immediate predecessor of the late Kanojee, they are all of illegitimate descent, and are, therefore, as there seems to be no doubt, incapable of inheriting, unless by virtue of an adoption.

Orig.

3. Sumbherjee, the representative of another branch of the Angria family, has removed on this occasion the claim, which he had preferred in 1822, in opposition to the late Raghojee Angria. But his pretensions had been, after full examination, rejected at that period, on the ground of the illegitimacy of his branch, and you have very properly refused to entertain them afresh.

4. The question, therefore, to be decided was, whether the widows of Raghojee Angria, the last chief but one, should be permitted to adopt one of the illegitimate sons of that chief, or any other person eligible according the rules of the caste.

5. Your President, with whom Mr. Farish concurred, was in favour of permitting the adoption. Mr. Anderson held, that the country should escheat to the British Government. The question was referred to the Government of India, who decided in favour of the escheat; you accordingly issued orders for taking possession of the country, abstaining, however, from declaring its annexation to the British territories until we should have expressed our sentiments on the question; and you have transmitted two memorials addressed to us by the widows, representing their case, and praying that an adoption, and the succession of the adopted son, may be sanctioned.

6. We entirely approve of the arrangements made by you for the provisional administration of the country, and of all your proceedings in the matter, so far as they are reported to us.

7. It remains to pronounce our decision on the main question.

8. Although on two former occasions the Governments of the Raja of Sattara and of the Peishwa, permitted illegitimate sons to succeed, no doubt (as stated in your President's minute of 28th May 1840) by virtue of an adoption, it is admitted that this privilege cannot be claimed as a right, but rests entirely in the discretion of the paramount Government. No ancient friendship or past obligations can be cited as giving a claim to this indulgence, while the claim which was supposed to be constituted by good management of the country, does not seem to have altogether stood the test of closer examination.

9. To permit the adoption, would, therefore, be to give up, by an act of mere grace, a territory which has undoubtedly lapsed to the British Government, as the paramount power.

10. At the same time, strong opinions are entertained, both in this country and in India, by persons whose opinions ought to have considerable weight, that for reasons of good policy, a surrender of our strict right ought to be made on this occasion.

11. Under these circumstances, we are desirous to have the benefit of a reconsideration of the question on the part of the Governor-general in Council.

12. For this purpose we shall send to his Lordship a copy of this despatch, and you will transmit to him any observations which you may have to offer on the subject.

13. We wish that careful consideration should be given to the probable effect of the decision on the people of Colaba, and on the native chiefs in general, with particular reference to the cases to which Mr. Anderson alludes in his minute, as "the other adoptions which we have refused."

14. We are also desirous of having a more detailed account of the evils to our Government consequent on the proximity of the Colaba state, and on the probability,

bility, or otherwise, of those evils being effectually removed by conditions with which the indulgence of adoption might be coupled.

Lapse of Colaba.

15. Whatever may be the opinion of the Governor-general in Council, no alteration is to be made in the present mode of administering the affairs of the Colaba state until our final decision be communicated to you.

We are, &c.

(signed) *G. Lyall,*
J. L. Lushington,
&c. &c.

London, 25 May 1841.

Political Department, 24 April (No. 11) 1844.

Our Governor in Council at Bombay.

Para. 1. WE now reply to your political letters, dated 17th June (No. 37), and 31st October (No. 72) 1843, respecting the affairs of Colaba.

2. The Government of India having, in the exercise of the discretion which we had confided to them, determined on the permanent annexation of the Colaba territory to the British possessions, the principal topics of the letters now acknowledged are the pecuniary provision made for the widows and other relatives of former chiefs of that petty state, and the precautions which it had appeared to us that it might be expedient to observe in the introduction of our regulations into the country.

3. The allowances which you have assigned to the members of the Augria family are, as we desired that they should be, liberal, amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 53,560. 4. 11.; besides which, there will be some small allowances to public servants whose services have been discontinued. It has, very properly, been intimated, that the whole of these pensions are for life only; and that the annual value of any lands which the Ranecs may be permitted to hold will be deducted from their allowances. In that event, Government is to retain the police administration, and to make effectual provision for protecting the ryots from oppression and exaction.

4. It is proposed to extend to the surviving ladies of the family, but to no other person, the privileges enjoyed by those Sirdars in the Deccan and the Southern Mahratta country, who are exempt from the jurisdiction of the civil courts.

5. A draft Act for annexing the country to the British territories has been framed, and submitted to the Governor-general of India in Council. In this draft the cases* which are withdrawn from the cognizance of the civil courts, are the same as those excepted from it in sect. 6, Reg. XXIX. of 1827, by which the territories in the Deccan and Candeish were brought under the Regulations. You have not thought it necessary or advisable to interdict the sale of land for arrears of revenue, on the ground that resort to the practice is very unfrequent under your Presidency, and that it is desirable to hold the power in reserve for extreme cases. Neither have you, as recommended by Mr. Davies, introduced any provision for protecting the Ryots against the evils consequent upon dependence on money-lenders, this subject being already under your consideration as a general question. The arguments of Mr. Davies are conclusive against the course which had been suggested, of extending the exemption from attachment on account of revenue or debt, which the Regulations already admit in favour of cattle and agricultural implements, to the land, dwelling, furniture and apparel, that is, generally speaking, to all the property of the cultivator.

6. The Regulations, therefore, will, according to your present views, be extended to Colaba, with little of modification or adaptation; but we are willing to hope that

* 1st. All claims for damages against persons in authority under the late Government for abuse of power during that period.

2d. All claims against Government on account of enams.

3d. All claims against Government on account of jagheers, wurshasuns, pensions, nemnooks, and other advantages not hereditary.

4th. All disputes regarding public rent or revenue payable to Government, and all complaints of exaction by mamlutdars, or district or village officers.

5th. All complaints on account of village debts, all village boundary disputes, and disputes regarding the use of wells and watercourses.

Lapse of Colaba.

* Letter, 4 Feb.
1843.

that little is necessary, since, as you justly observe, Colaba is greatly intermixed and closely connected with our own territories, and the people already are much familiarized with our system, in addition to which, we learn from Mr. Davies * that they are in general very averse to punchayets of their own countrymen, while they resort freely to the civil court of the Superintendent.

Orig.

7. The particulars of two criminal trials for serious offences, held by Mr. Davies, are on this occasion transmitted to us; the prisoners appear to have been justly convicted: in the first, however, of the two cases, one of gang-robbery, accompanied with violence, you remarked that there had been "an absence of those official forms in conducting this trial which it is desirable should be observed," and you forwarded to Mr. Davies, for his future guidance, a copy of one of the trials held by the Political Agent's Court in Kattywar. There was in the trial in question something more than a defect of form, since Mr. Davies, instead of examining the witnesses *de novo*, and then comparing their testimony with the evidence they had given in the preliminary proceeding, had the former deposition read, and then examined them respecting its accuracy. This error should have been distinctly pointed. We must also observe, that 11 prisoners were tried, and though none were acquitted, only nine were sentenced, a discrepancy of which an explanation should be called for.

8. The other proceedings included in the papers before us require no remark.

We are, &c.

(Signed) John Shepherd,
H. Willock,
&c. &c.

London, 24 April 1844.

Lapse of Mandavee.

Lapse of Mandavee.

Political Department, 30 December (No. 24) 1842.

Our Governor in Council at Bombay.

Assumption of the
petty state of
Mandavee.

Para 1. WE now reply to your Political Letters, dated 17th June (No. 35), and 27th October (No. 63) 1841, in which you report to us your having, by the direction of the Government of India, annexed the petty state of Mandavee to the British territories, on failure of the direct line of succession by the death of the infant Raja, Doorjern Singjee.

2. The state of Mandavee was a tributary dependency of the Peshwas, whose sanction was necessary to every succession (at least if there were no lineal heir), and who were accustomed to exact a large nuzzerana whenever they permitted the state to pass to an adopted heir. The rights of the Peshwas have passed to our Government, and your consent is undoubtedly necessary, not indeed to the validity of an adoption, or to the private rights which it confers, but to enable the adopted son to succeed to the chiefship.

3. In this case, as in that of Colaba, the right of adoption was claimed by the widow of the last Raja but one, to whom a succession in the direct line has already taken place. Her claim is even weaker than that of the Colaba Ranee, since she does not appear to have received from her deceased husband even that qualified and conditional authority to adopt, which was given by Ragojee Angria. We are of opinion that you were in no respect bound to sanction such an adoption.

4. Six legitimate male relations have preferred claims to the succession, but the nearest of these, named Hurree Sing Ruttun Sing, is at a distance of ten degrees from the common ancestor, Herbajee. These collateral claimants have been excluded on the ground that although descended from Raja Herbajee, they are not descendants of Doorjun Sing, one of his successors, who, in the year 1730, was deprived of his principality by Damojee Row Guicowar, and to whom it was restored twenty years afterwards by the Peshwa, as a reward for services, on the footing of a dependent and tributary State.

5. We infer, from Mr. Maddock's letter of the 17th May 1841, that the Government of India have considered the ancient principality of Mandavee as destroyed by the conquest in 1730, and have held that the subsequent restoration of

of the territory to its former chief, called a new state into existence, of which Doorjun Sing is to be considered the founder, and which, as there no longer remain any descendants of that individual, either by birth or adoption, has lapsed to the superior power. We are not satisfied that this view of the case is a just one. We wish it to be further considered whether the deprivation of Doorjun Sing by the Guicowar, taken in connexion with his subsequent restoration by the Peishwa, can be considered as causing such a rupture of the rights of succession to the state that those who were entitled to succeed previously to the deprivation did not resume their title on the restoration.

6. You will therefore submit the question again for deliberation on the part of the Governor-general in Council.

7. If his Lordship in Council should be of opinion that the British Government has an undoubted right to the possession of the state, and that it is politically expedient that the right should be exercised, you will act in conformity with that opinion.

8. At the occurrence of the vacancy, the country, which had previously been extremely mismanaged, had been already taken under British management for the purpose of retrieving its affairs, and we are glad to find that its prosperity was returning, its revenues increasing, and that rapid progress was making in the liquidation of its debts.

9. In the event of the permanent annexation of the state to the British territories, you will of course make a suitable provision for the widows, and for all relatives or dependents of the family who have a claim to support.

We are, &c.

(signed) *J. L. Lushington,*
J. Cotton,
&c. &c.

London, 30 December 1842.

EXTRACT Political Letter to Bombay; dated 2 August (No. 21) 1844.

Para. 49. THE Government of India, in the exercise of the discretion which we confided to them, have decided this question in conformity with the unanimous opinion of your Government; in accordance with that decision, the country has now lapsed to our Government, as the Peishwa's representative.

Letter from, dated 20 Dec. (No. 78), 1843; annexation of the petty state of Mandavee to the British territories.

50. We presume that you intend annexing it to the zillah of Surat, but we are not yet apprized with what restrictions or modifications, temporary or permanent, our Regulations are to be introduced. The nature of the rude and turbulent population which occupies the district, must, we should think, require that a peculiar degree of caution be observed in the introduction of new forms.

51. We perceive, from Mr. Elliot's financial statements, that the country has been successfully administered under the provisional arrangements, and that the ryots have been relieved from certain petty items of taxation.

52. You will not fail to provide liberally for the Rannees, and for all relatives or dependents of the family who may have an equitable claim to support.

53. It appears that there are creditors of the late Raja, who, we presume, would have had their claims satisfied if the state had continued to be managed by us in behalf of a native ruler, and it is proper that they should obtain as favourable treatment from the British Government. We do not, however, find any proposition made for indemnifying them further than from the proceeds of the sale of certain live-stock and other effects which were ordered to be kept in custody for that purpose.

(True copies.)

East India House,
1 February 1850.

(signed) *T. L. Peacock,*
Examiner of India Correspondence.

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(*Sir Edward Colebrooke.*)

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